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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy One, teach us to do Your will. Help us to see life's troubles from a spiritual perspective as we continue to place our trust in You. May our hearts find repose in You.

Direct our Senators in all their doings, surrounding them with Your favor. Lord, be continually available to help them in their work so that Your Name will be glorified and righteousness will exalt our Nation. Keep our lawmakers captive only to Your Spirit, that they may be free from bondage to self. Guide them so that they will pursue only what is good and true and just, as You empower them to live God-centered lives.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Democratic leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Statue of Liberty stands as a universal symbol of hope and freedom. Engraved within its pedestal are the words of Emma Lazarus, a call etched for the world to see.

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

For countless generations, our fathers and grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers, have braved oceans, deserts, and rivers to answer that call. As a result, the United States has been empowered by the contributions of immigrants from around the world—immigrants who came in pursuit of the American dream and have pursued this dream through strong family values, hard work, and love of country.

My wife's father, my father-in-law, emigrated here from Russia. My grandmother came from England. My family, like so many American families, has its immigrant stories to tell.

This month is Immigrant Heritage Month. As we celebrate our shared immigrant heritage, we must work to ensure that America welcomes future generations of immigrants with the dignity and respect we wish for our own families.

The United States has become the greatest Nation on Earth because of the hard work, dedication, and diversity immigrants brought to these shores. Our strength lies in our ability to embrace the richness immigrants bring to the American story. Just look at some of our Nation's most successful companies: Google, Yahoo, General Electric, IBM. These are all modern companies, but over the centuries, we have had life stories, where just like Google, Yahoo, General Electric, and IBM, all these American companies were founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants.

I have seen personally the contributions of immigrants and the positive impact that a diversity of backgrounds has on shaping public policy. My staff represents generations of immigrants brought to this country. One staff member was born in the Philippines and emigrated with her mother to Las Vegas. Another left Nicaragua in the

1980s in the midst of a brutal civil war and settled in Carson City. Others came from Mexico, El Salvador, and Poland. Much like our Nation, my office is all the better because it reflects the diverse backgrounds, communities, and perspectives of those who have immigrated to Nevada.

Nevada has a particularly vibrant international community. Las Vegas is home to large Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Armenian communities. Northern Nevada has the same, but in addition to that, it is the home to proud descendants of immigrants from the Basque Country.

Without the contributions made by generations of proud immigrants, Nevada would not be the State that it is today. Immigrants have been leaders. They protect our Nation, and they have taught our children. The immigrants who heeded the call engraved on the Statue of Liberty have altered this country for the better. We are and will always be a Nation of immigrants.

I have devoted years of legislative effort to fixing our broken immigration system. In 2010 after Republicans blocked the DREAM Act, it became clear to me and to other Senators that Republicans were not going to cooperate. So we urged the President to take administrative action as the Republicans continued to block legislative efforts.

Three years ago today, the President announced that young people who do not present a risk to national security would become eligible for relief from deportation through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. As a result of this action, over 660,000 DREAMers have been approved, including almost 12,000 Nevadans. These individuals no longer live in fear of deportation. They can now contribute more fully to our country, as college students, teachers, small business owners, and artisans. These individuals were brought here as young children. Most do not remember the countries in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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which they were born. When they pledge allegiance it is to the United States. They love this country and are Americans in all but paperwork. These young people can now become teachers, own businesses, and further contribute to the American economy. They can secure a better future for themselves, their families, and our country. The program is a temporary solution for a broken immigration system.

Comprehensive immigration reform is the best way to repair our immigration system and preserve the integrity of the American dream. In the Senate we passed a bill almost 2 years ago for comprehensive immigration reform, but House Republicans refused even to allow a vote on that legislation. Had they allowed a vote on the legislation, it would have passed by a big margin because virtually every Democrat would have voted for it and a number of Republicans would have voted for it. But the Speaker decided no, they wouldn't allow a vote on it, and they haven't. But because the Republicans would not pass immigration reform, President Obama acted again within his legal authority to create a new program for the parents of U.S. citizens and green card holders that would in effect take care of the parents of these DREAMers. Those programs would be in effect now if it were not for a politically motivated lawsuit filed by a Republican challenging the program.

The Republicans say it is about the President, but they really are attacking and separating American families. In the Senate, Republicans have tried repeatedly to stop President Obama's efforts.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people over the past 3 years. Shutting down this program would cause the deportation of young men and women to countries they don't know.

We, with the President, will do everything in our power to protect and defend this program and to fight the baseless lawsuit that is preventing over 5 million additional people for the American dream. The Supreme Court has been clear that Presidents have the authority for Federal immigration enforcement priorities. I am confident that the President's actions will ultimately be upheld, and I will continue to fight to protect those programs and keep families together.

I look forward to the day when programs such as DACA are replaced with permanent comprehensive immigration reform, which is so vitally important.

Before closing, on the floor today is the assistant Democratic leader. He has been on this floor articulating the importance of these DREAMers and what they do for our country, and what initially was their potential for our country. Now of course it has already been proven that their potential was even underscored. They have done so much more than we even anticipated they could do. I appreciate very much

my friend, the senior Senator from Illinois, for his advocacy of this program and his tireless efforts for justice in America.

So I hope that we will live up to the words on the Statue of Liberty, at the lamp beside the golden door, which is beckoning to people from other shores.

Mr. President, will you announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The assistant Democratic leader.

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DACA PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Democratic leader for his kind words.

Today is the third anniversary of DACA.

It was 15 years ago when I received a call to my Senate office in Chicago. A Korean-American woman who worked at a drycleaners in the city of Chicago had a question for me. It turned out that her daughter, Tereza Lee, had been offered an opportunity to go to school at one of the best music schools in America, but she had problems filling out her application.

The whole story is that this family had come through Brazil from Korea to the United States years before. The family, including Tereza, who was then 2 years old, came in on a tourist visa. The idea behind their arrival in America was that her father was going to open a church. He would be a minister with his own congregation. It was a dream that was never realized. The family struggled. They were very poor. Tereza's mother went to work at a drycleaners. Her father didn't work much. He had health problems.

Luckily, Tereza, this young girl, when she was about 10 or 12 years old, was enrolled in a music program in Chicago called the Merit Music Program. The Merit Music Program offers to children from poor families musical instruction and instruments. They introduced Tereza to the piano, and an amazing thing happened. She turned out to be an incredible musician. So she was finishing high school and was offered an opportunity to go to school in New York to a music school—the Manhattan School of Music.

She had other offers, too, but when she went to fill out the application and they asked her to put in her citizenship and nationality, she asked her dad and mom: What am I supposed to put

there? They said: We didn't file any papers for you. You are technically undocumented in America. Your sister and brother were born here and are legal citizens. We have become legal in America, but as for you, we are not sure. So what should we do? Let's call DURBIN's office.

They called my Senate office and the law is very clear. If you were brought to the United States undocumented and lived your entire life here and wanted to stay here, the law said you had to leave the United States for 10 years and then apply to come back.

They asked me if there was anything else under the law, and I said no, that was it. It is because of that that I introduced the DREAM Act 15 years ago. This DREAM Act said that young people under circumstances like Tereza's, who were brought to the United States at a very young age, were raised in this country, were finishing school, and who had no criminal record, would be given a chance—a chance to become legal in America, the DREAM Act.

Well, that DREAM Act has been a dream for 15 years. It is not a law. But, fortunately for me, when I served in the Senate, at one point I had a colleague named Barack Obama, who was my fellow Senator and cosponsor of the DREAM Act in his day. When he became President and it became clear we were not going to pass comprehensive immigration reform or make the DREAM Act the law of the land, this President said: I will give to these young people who would qualify for the DREAM Act temporary status so they can stay in America on a temporary basis without fear of deportation. That is what the President did 3 years ago with DACA, deferred action for childhood arrivals.

As the Democratic leader reported, 660,000 young people have signed up, paid a hefty filing fee, had a criminal background check, and submitted their names to the government. It was a leap of faith for these young people to do this because if you grew up undocumented in America, you were told at a very early age by your parents: For goodness' sakes, keep your head down; don't ever get arrested; don't try to drive a car. Not only could you get deported, our whole family could get deported.

Well, these young people wanted to be heard, and they stepped up and they signed up for the President's program.

It has been an incredible story. Five years ago, in April 2010, I joined with my former colleague Richard Lugar in writing a letter to President Obama asking him to establish this program. Later that year, Senator REID, who just spoke, brought the DREAM Act to the Senate floor. The Senate Gallery was filled with young people, undocumented people, who came for that bill to be considered wearing caps and gowns. They wanted to make it clear they were not looking for a free ride in America. They were looking for a chance. But despite the fact that 55

Senators out of 100 voted for it, we did not get the magic number—60—and the DREAM Act did not become law.

Senator REID joined me, with 22 other Democratic Senators, asking President Obama to create this DACA Program so these children could sign up. The President did. It is an amazing success. What has happened to these DREAMers when they are given a chance to have a future in America, when they are not afraid of the knock on the door and being deported? Well, what has happened? Amazing things have happened. They are beginning to contribute to America as engineers, teachers, small business owners, and more.

I know this policy of the President to give these young people a chance to be part of America absolutely infuriates most of my Republican colleagues. They cannot stand the thought that the President by Executive order would give these young people a chance. In fact, the House of Representatives on several occasions has tried to reverse this and take away this recognition that these young people can stay here on a temporary basis without being deported.

Last fall, the President extended the program in what is known as DAPA—deferred action for parental accountability—for those who have been here for a long period of time and would also be given temporary status, registered with the government, and be able to work in our country.

Today, the Center for American Progress released a new report on the impact on the economy of the United States of these people eligible for DACA, the young people, and DAPA, their parents. Over the next 10 years, in my home State of Illinois, these two Presidential policies will increase my State's gross domestic product by almost \$15 billion, and it will increase the overall earnings of the people living in my State.

How is that possible? How is it possible to take these undocumented people and turn them into a positive for the economy? Well, I will tell you, that is what happens when they are on the books and working and paying their taxes, as they want to be, as they should be.

Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona was just on the floor. He was one of four Republican Senators—it took some courage—who stepped up and worked with four of us on the Democratic side to write a comprehensive immigration bill. We believe that our immigration system is broken in America, and we want to fix it. We met together for months working on that bill. One of the good reports that came out of the bill was that a comprehensive immigration system where people register, submit themselves to a background check, and pay their taxes has a positive impact on the economy of the United States.

Unfortunately, the expansion of these two programs has been blocked by a lawsuit in Texas filed against the President. Earlier this month, Repub-

licans in the House of Representatives voted to block the administration from any money to defend this lawsuit. That amendment was offered by a Republican Congressman from Iowa named STEVE KING, who has falsely claimed that DREAMers are actually drug dealers with “calves the size of cantaloupes”—a direct quote from Congressman KING—because they are carrying drugs across our border. That is a cruel game Congressman KING is playing with the lives of these young people. And now they want to fix the game by blocking the Obama administration from defending the lawsuit. Clearly, the proponents of this lawsuit and their destructive efforts will ultimately fail. But the Supreme Court has been clear—the President has the power to make these policies.

It is so troubling that so many on the other side of the aisle are determined to block immigration in America.

I have come to the floor many times to tell the stories of these DREAMers, and I would like to tell one of those stories today on the third anniversary of this DACA Program.

As shown in picture, this is Denisse Rojas. In 1990, when she was just a little infant, her parents carried her across the southwest border with the hope of giving her and her siblings a better life. Denisse and her family settled in Fremont, CA. Denisse said: “In grade school, I recall feeling different from my peers. . . . my skin color was darker, my English was stilted, I was poor, and I was undocumented.”

Denisse remembers her dad in a restaurant uniform studying late at night so he could pass the GED test. And her mother attended community college part time for 7 years to earn a nursing degree. It was this perseverance that inspired Denisse to try harder.

In high school she was an excellent student and athlete. She graduated with a 4.3 grade point average, and she received the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award.

Denisse was accepted to the University of California, Berkeley—one of the best colleges in the country—but because of her undocumented status, she did not qualify for any financial aid or government help. Denisse worked 30 hours a week while attending school full time, and she commuted an hour each way to and from school every day so she could live in affordable housing.

At Berkeley, Denisse Rojas majored in integrative biology and sociology. Because she was such a good student, she was selected to work in the genetics lab. Her research was published in the journal Science.

I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes. I know the Senator is anxious, but if I could have 2 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator allow me to propound a unanimous consent request?

Mr. DURBIN. Of course.

I am sorry, the staff said we have one more thing to check. If you will give me 2 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Please proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I would have gladly yielded to my friend from Arizona but a higher order prevails.

As a senior at Berkeley, Denisse co-founded Pre-Health Dreamers, a national organization of undocumented students who want to become health care professionals.

She volunteers at the San Francisco General Hospital Community to Clinic Linkage Program, where she helps patients who are seeking affordable housing, healthy food, and employment.

In 2012, when President Obama established DACA—its third anniversary today—her life changed. As a DACA recipient, Denisse's dreams finally seemed within reach.

In this picture I have in the Chamber, Denisse is holding her letter of acceptance to Mount Sinai Medical School in New York. She will be in classes this fall. She wrote me a letter. She said:

I have pledged allegiance to this nation's values since my first day of school; I consider the United States my home. Furthermore, serving others has instilled in me the notion that everyone deserves the opportunity for prosperity. I thus aim to dedicate my life to serving others as a physician and continuing to be a voice for immigrants.

Would America be a better country if she were deported? Would we be better as a nation if Denisse Rojas was told: Leave. We don't need you. We don't want you. The fact that you have spent your entire life here means nothing. The fact that you are an exceptional student means nothing. Leave.

It sounds like a harsh point of view, but it is shared by many in Congress.

This last weekend, I took my two little grandkids—my wife and I did—out to the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island. I took a look at that statue and was reminded that we are a nation of immigrants. I was blessed that my mother came to this country as an immigrant, and I stand on the Senate floor trying to do my best to make it a better country.

There are people like Denisse Rojas who want to make this a better America. DACA has given them that chance. Today, we celebrate the third anniversary of this Executive order, but more importantly, we celebrate who we are—a nation of immigrants always striving to make life better for the next generation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and thank my colleague from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to express my appreciation to the Senator from Illinois for his passion, for his commitment, for his advocacy for people who sometimes do not have

a voice here in the U.S. Senate. I congratulate him, and I express my heartfelt appreciation for his efforts on behalf of people who are unable to speak for themselves. I thank the Senator from Illinois.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow, June 16, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote in relation to the McCain-Feinstein amendment No. 1889, with no second-degree amendments in order to the McCain-Feinstein amendment prior to the vote; further, that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote in relation to the Ernst amendment No. 1549, followed by a vote on the Gillibrand amendment No. 1578, as under the previous order, followed by the cloture vote with respect to the McCain substitute amendment No. 1463.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to modify that unanimous consent request by adding further that no second-degree amendments be in order to the Ernst or Gillibrand amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI KURDISH PESHMERGA FORCES

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, as we continue to fight against ISIS and their radical allies, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Ernst-Boxer amendment, which provides authority for direct assistance to a critical partner in that fight: the Iraqi Kurds.

Defeating ISIS is critical to maintaining an inclusive and unified Iraq, and the Iraqi Kurds are the key to that goal and helping to improve the humanitarian crisis in the region through their support and protection of over 1.6 million displaced persons from Iraq and Syria.

This bipartisan amendment, also co-sponsored by Senators GRAHAM, TILLIS, RUBIO, and GARDNER, provides temporary authority for the President, in consultation with the Iraqi Government—and I say, again, in consultation with the Iraqi Government—to provide weapons directly to Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the fight against ISIS should the administration choose to do so.

Currently, by law, the United States must provide support to the Iraqi

Kurds through the Iraqi central government in Baghdad, which has often not been timely or adequate in the past. These delays have had a negative impact on the Kurds' ability to defend Iraqi territory and provide security for those who have sought refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan. The President's recent decision to expedite arms to the Kurds as a way to improve the counter-ISIS effort, I believe, speaks for itself.

Additionally, last year, Secretary of State John Kerry said to the House Foreign Affairs Committee:

You said the administration is responsible for sending all these weapons through Baghdad. No, we're not. You are. We're adhering to U.S. law passed by Congress.

Secretary Kerry continued:

We have to send it to the [Iraqi] government because that's U.S. law. If you want to change it, fix it, we invite you.

Well, this amendment does just that, and it does so in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion. It builds upon a similar bill in the House led by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL. This bill and my amendment are quite different than the House NDAA language.

My amendment provides a 3-year authorization to reduce delays and inefficiencies in arming Peshmerga forces to fight ISIS while ensuring the Iraqi Government is an integral part of the process. The amendment continues to promote a unified Iraq and enhances the ability to fight our common enemy—an enemy that ultimately seeks to bring their terror to our shores.

Furthermore, the amendment preserves the President's ability to notify the Iraqi Government before weapons, equipment, defense services or related training is provided to Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces. It ensures this emergency authorization does not construct a precedent of providing direct support to organizations other than a country or an international organization. Most important to remember, it does not require the President to act. It provides him the authorization to do so if he feels the situation warrants it.

Beginning in the first gulf war, the Iraqi Kurds and their Peshmerga security forces have played a vital role in supporting U.S. interests and fostering a free Iraq, despite limited means of doing so. Last week, they not only held their ground but made some gains against ISIS in the Kirkuk Province. There are far too few positive news stories out of Iraq recently, but when there are some, it is often the Kurds who are making that progress.

ISIS is deadly and determined, and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces—our critical partner in the fight against ISIS—need U.S. weapons as quickly as possible. We simply cannot afford future delays at this critical moment in the battle. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this much needed bipartisan legislation to arm the Iraqi Kurds in the fight against ISIS.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I wish to address the issue of America's space program.

Some very disturbing news has come out over the course of the Appropriations Committee's deliberations on the House-passed Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill, which, it is my understanding, has passed the House. It includes the funding for NASA. What is disturbing about it is that at a time when we are recognizing that Vladimir Putin is increasingly trying to thwart the interests of the United States with his aggressiveness and invasion of Ukraine, his threats to the Baltic States, his invasion of that part of Ukraine known as Crimea, and the various other semi-threats he has made to us, it would certainly seem to be in the interests of the United States that where we have a joint shared and mutually agreed-to space program which goes all the way back to 1975 when in the middle of the Cold War an American spacecraft rendezvoused and docked with a Russian spacecraft, Soyuz—and the Apollo-Soyuz mission made extraordinary political as well as scientific history for those two crews, led by Gen. Tom Stafford on the American side and General Alexei Leonov on the Soviet side. After they docked, those two crews lived together in space for 9 days in the middle of the Cold War, 1975. That set us on the course—with the Soviet Union still in existence—of starting to cooperate. We actually had an American space shuttle rendezvous and dock with the first Russian space station, MIR. From there, we went on to build the International Space Station with the Russians as well as a dozen other nations as our partners. This space station, on orbit 250 to 325 miles high, is 120 yards long. In other words, if you sat at the 50-yard line in a football stadium, you would look from one goalpost to the other goalpost and that is how big this is, the International Space Station. There are six human beings up there. There is an international crew. There are Russians, there are Americans, and from time to time there are Italians, Germans, French, Japanese—a whole host of nations that are our partners.

So it has been that as we built this space station, the Russians would launch on their Soyuz spacecraft, to and from the International Space Station, supply and human supply, and the Americans, who had the capacity of 45,000 pounds on the space shuttle,

would take up the component parts of the space shuttle and assemble them in orbit. We continued that over the better part of a decade and a half, until the space station was complete.

In the interim, we lost 14 souls and 2 space shuttles, the last one of which was Columbia in the winter of 2003. The investigation board, led by Navy Admiral Gehman, said: As soon as you get the space station assembled—it was necessary to fly the space shuttle to take up the component parts—you shut it down and you replace the space shuttle with a safer rocket.

I won't take the time right now to explain the engineering and design of the space shuttle versus the future rocket, but for this discussion, suffice it to say that when you put the crew in a capsule at the top of the rocket, they have the capability to escape, saving the crew, even if there is an explosion of the rocket on the pad because the capsule can separate with the escape rockets and land some distance away via parachutes.

By the way, one of those rockets under development right now just had its pad-abort test—SpaceX—and it was very successful.

I am giving all this background to get to what was almost a dagger in the heart coming out of the Appropriations Committee in both the House and the Senate, and that is, they have funded NASA fairly well given the fact that they are trying to cut in order to satisfy this tea party-inspired sequester, which is this cut across the board, but in doing so, what they have done is cut the development funds for the humans riding on American rockets to get to and from our International Space Station, the essence of which is that if those funding cuts the committee has done are sustained, it will delay us from putting Americans on American rockets going to and from the space station until, instead of 2017, very likely 2019.

Ask almost any American whether they want a successful American space program, and they will clearly tell you yes, and that means Americans on American rockets. We have those rockets. They are sending cargo to and from. But we have to go in and do the designs of the redundancies and the escape systems on these commercial rockets, the two companies of which in competition are Boeing and SpaceX.

Now let me get back to Vladimir Putin. Do we think it is a matter of wise public policy that we would continue our dependence on Vladimir Putin on our ability to get to our own International Space Station by having to ride and pay what he now charges—\$75 million a ride per U.S. astronaut? Do we think that is wise public policy given this President of the Russian Federation who is so predictable? I don't think so.

So what the House did—the President's request for this next round of competition—and they have come a long way. They are ready to go. I just

said that one of the competitors, SpaceX, just did a pad-abort test by showing that the capsule could separate from the rocket and safely land 3,600 feet away in a splashdown with the parachutes.

It is not wise public policy to cut funding so this development of safe human space travel on these commercial rockets of Boeing and SpaceX—it is not good public policy, it is not in the interests of U.S. public policy that we would stay tied to Vladimir Putin in order to get to and from our own space station with astronauts.

It is just a small amount of money. The President requested for this next year of competition \$1.24 billion to put in the redundancies and the escape systems and have them tested. It is a critical year. It is 2015. It is the middle of 2015. We are going to start flying U.S. astronauts 2 years from now, in 2017. But when you start cutting that funding from the President's request to \$900 million, as the Senate Appropriations Committee just did last week, or to \$1 billion, which the House has just done in the passage of their appropriations bill—when you do that, that is going to stretch out the development that it is very likely we can't send our own astronauts to our own space station on our own rockets. We will have to keep paying Vladimir Putin \$75 million every time we go to ride on the Soyuz to go to our own space station. Now, you figure it out. How many rides is that over an additional 2 years? That is probably \$300 million right there. That is only four rides, assuming he is going to be charging us in 2018 and 2019 the same price he is charging now. He could jack that up.

I think it was a sad day in the Senate Appropriations Committee when the committee turned down, by a very narrow vote of 14 to 12, Senator MIKULSKI's amendment to restore the cut from \$900 million to \$1.24 billion. Sooner or later, that appropriations bill is going to come out here. It has a lot of other problems, as every appropriations bill does, as the Senate is finding out on this Defense authorization bill right now—all the funny money that is baked into it because of this so-called sequester. But when it comes out here, I am going to ask the Senators: Do you think it is wise policy that we continue our reliance on Vladimir Putin?

As we have been doing the Defense bill, JOHN MCCAIN, our chairman, has been on a rampage against giving money to Vladimir Putin by virtue of us buying the Russian engine, which is a very good engine and which became an engine for American rockets, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, as a way of keeping their Russian—formerly Soviet—scientists engaged in an aerospace industry so they did not get secreted off to become scientists for rogue nations such as North Korea or Iran. But Senator MCCAIN has pointed out—rightly this Senator believes—that you want to reduce your reliance on those Russian engines called the

RD-180 that are the main engines for the Atlas V, one of the absolute prime horses in the stable for our assured access to space. If we are going to lessen our dependence on the Russian engine, why wouldn't we lessen our dependence on Russian spacecraft being the only means by which we would get to orbit to our own International Space Station? The logic is too compelling. Yet it is this ideological furor that has lapsed over into partisanship that has so gripped these Halls of Congress into making irrational decisions.

We can correct this decision when that appropriations bill comes to the floor of the Senate. I hope we will. I hope folks such as Senator MCCAIN—one of this country's two heroes who is taking this on in the defense committee—are going to help us out here on the floor by taking this on in the Appropriations Committee.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the National Defense Authorization Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation Congress considers each and every year. That is why the new majority has made it one of our top priorities. It is why we have reversed the worrying trend of recent years, when we had seen such an important bill crammed in at the very last minute with little time for debate or for amendment.

This year's Defense bill has undergone weeks of thorough and serious consideration under the regular order, both in committee and here on the floor. This year's Defense bill has been open to a vigorous and bipartisan amendment process, with amendments from both sides having been adopted already.

It is a reform bill that aims to transform bureaucratic waste into crucial investments for the men and women who give everything—everything—to protect us. It contains important quality-of-life programs for these servicemembers and for their families. It holds the promise of compassion for wounded warriors, and it extends a hand of understanding to heroes who struggle with mental health challenges. It also authorizes the pay raises our troops have surely earned.

It is a bill that contains input from both sides, and it is a bill that reflects priorities from both sides. That is why it sailed out of committee with huge bipartisan support, 22 to 4. That is why the House of Representatives passed a similar version with support from both parties.

That is why one would think it would be headed towards strong bipartisan passage here in the Senate as well. But some Democratic leaders now want to hold pay raises and important medical programs for our troops hostage as leverage for unrelated partisan gains.

It is all part of the filibuster summer they promised us. Democratic leaders have been quite open in detailing their strategy, which basically boils down to this: Deny our troops the benefits they have earned and even shut down the government if they can't extract more taxpayer dollars for bureaucracies such as the IRS.

The American people don't want any part of this senseless filibuster summer vacation. But Democratic leaders already packed up their dusty Winnebago and—with "Bigger IRS or bust" scrawled on the back—are now barreling toward our troops and their families in a dangerous game of chicken.

I am asking these leaders to please stop—please stop. This isn't some game. Please think about what you are doing.

We live in exceedingly dangerous times. We are faced with the most "diverse and complex array of crises" in the postwar era, and that is Henry Kissinger saying that. Nearly every week seems to bring another new example of ISIL's brutality.

This is certainly not a moment to use our military as leverage in order to secure a few more bucks—a few more bucks—for bloated bureaucracies such as the IRS.

All of this must make some of our Democratic colleagues uneasy. Some of them must be cringing at this strategy.

I am asking every Democrat who is serious about supporting our troops and our national security to stand with the American people in rejecting these partisan games. Our all-volunteer force should be focused on training in combat and preparing for conflict, not worrying about the partisan delay of important policy authorizations. We all know how vital our troops are to both our country and our own local communities. I have come to the floor recently to talk about what the men and women of our military mean to Kentucky.

I noted how, at Fort Campbell, more than 30,000 Army personnel trained for important missions around the world, from repeated deployments to Afghanistan to providing humanitarian support in places such as Africa. I noted how the base enriches the surrounding region with an economic impact of \$5 billion each year. I noted how Fort Knox houses many different military commands in both a truly impressive array of training grounds and training facilities. I noted how the base makes an economic impact of more than \$2 billion in Hardin County and the surrounding community.

So today I wish to speak a little bit about Blue Grass Army Depot. The depot, located in Richmond, is integral to both the Army and our national security as a facilitation site for the storage, renovation, and disposal of conventional munitions. It also serves as a reminder of the many important tasks undertaken by the Department of Defense—and one more reason Kentuckians don't want to see the Department distracted or disrupted by partisan games here in Washington, because, after having personally implored the Department of Defense for several decades to meet our national commitment, the Department is now close to completing construction of a state-of-the-art chemical demilitarization facility at the depot. That would allow for the proper disposal of dangerous chemical weapons that are stored there.

This is important for our country, and it is critical to the health and safety of my constituents in central Kentucky.

But it has also become a good jobs story for the region too. There are more than 1,400 jobs at the Blue Grass Army Depot, and hiring will continue when operations at the new facility begin.

Kentuckians know that passing the Defense bill before us would authorize a new Special Forces facility at Fort Campbell. Kentuckians know it would authorize construction projects and an important new medical clinic at Fort Knox.

Kentuckians also know it would help the Department of Defense from becoming unnecessarily distracted or disrupted as it continues carrying out critical tasks such as the kind we see at the Blue Grass Army Depot, disposing of these dangerous chemical weapons.

I am asking every Senator to remember all the ways our troops and our military enrich our States and local communities. I am asking every Senator to consider the serious times we live in, too. And I am asking every Senator to keep those things in mind when casting votes on the Defense bill.

We may be Republicans, we may be Democrats, but in the end we should all be able to come together to support the people who support us. Let's stand together in rejecting partisan games in favor of a bipartisan bill that contains good ideas from both parties and gives

President Obama the exact funding level he asked for. This bill gives President Obama the exact funding level he asked for. Let's worry less about the demands of one party's political base and more about supporting the brave men and women who live on the base.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LOOPHOLE ON MILITARY BASES

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise today to enable my colleagues to become aware of the tragic circumstances that led to the untimely death of 5-year-old Talia Williams and an amendment I have submitted that seeks to close the loophole that allowed Talia to slip through our child abuse safety net.

In 2005, Talia Williams moved to Hawaii to live with her father, Naeem Williams, and his wife, Talia's stepmother, Delilah Williams. Mr. Williams was in the military, stationed at Schofield Barracks. Mr. Williams' defense attorney argued that Mr. Williams was ill-equipped to care for his daughter. That may be true, but what we know for a fact is that Talia Williams suffered 7 months of near constant abuse at the hands of her father and stepmother. This torture ended on July 16, 2005, when Mr. Williams hit Talia so hard it left his fist imprinted on her chest and killed her. Mr. Williams was convicted of murdering his daughter last year, and he was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Her stepmother, Delilah Williams, was given a reduced sentence of 20 years in prison for providing testimony against her husband.

Tarshia Williams, Talia's mother, sued the military in 2010 for the death of her daughter. Her case was settled earlier this year, with the Department of Defense agreeing to a \$2 million settlement for not doing enough to save Talia Williams.

In the course of those two proceedings, it became clear that Talia Williams could have been saved if one thing occurred—reporting the abuse to Hawaii's Child Welfare Services branch or CPS. Through a memorandum of understanding—MOU—with the State of Hawaii, the Department of Defense established a system in which Hawaii's Child Welfare Services would be "the agency primarily responsible for intake, investigation, and the provision of protective services as deemed necessary to abused children within the State of Hawaii," including the children of military families both on and off base.

Under statute and reiterated in the MOU, only Hawaii's State agencies

have the authority—not the military—to take emergency custody and order foster care placement for children without the consent of a parent. But this could only happen if officials in Hawaii knew about the abuse.

In Talia's case, a number of people were aware of her maltreatment. Yet no report was received by the report point of contact, who was the person on base mandated to report to Hawaii's Child Protective Services. The court in Tarshia Williams' civil suit found that military law enforcement, the doctors who treated Talia, and at least one or two family counselors had reason to suspect that violence was occurring in the Williams home. At least one person on base directly reported to the family advocacy program her concerns for Talia's well-being. No action was taken. Talia remained in the home while time and again law enforcement personnel and others were called to investigate or received reports of abuse. Not enough was done to remove her from her home. This lack of action was and is unacceptable. No one followed up on Talia's case to the degree we all should expect. Information about the abuse she lived through never reached the Army provost, who, under the MOU with the State of Hawaii, was the single person required to alert Child Welfare Services. And Talia died.

This loophole, which puts us in a position of hoping and trusting that information of abuse makes it to the reporting point of contact, must be addressed. My amendment would fix this problem by establishing a legal requirement that any federally mandated reporter with credible evidence or suspicion of child abuse notify both the DOD's Family Advocacy Program and the appropriate State's child welfare department. This amendment would eliminate the bottleneck of having only one reporting point of contact. Instead, mandatory reporters—which include teachers, doctors, law enforcement, and others—must directly report such evidence or suspicion both up the chain of command and also over to the appropriate State authorities. I am hopeful that by requiring such dual reporting, no military-connected children will remain in abusive homes because information never made it to the right person.

There were many mistakes made in Talia's case. Some of those mistakes are of the type that no law might rectify—a reluctance of people to get involved in the affairs of others, the reluctance to implicate abuse, perhaps fear of repercussions or out of respect for a member's service and personal affability. However, in a case such as Talia's, more should have been done and could have been done if only the right people were made aware of the situation.

I hope we do not continue to ignore this one glaring reporting loophole, leaving in place a hole in our safety net wide enough to miss the torture and untimely death of a child like Talia.

I recognize that time on the Defense authorization is short. I am sure the Department of Defense shares my concerns on this issue. I look forward to working with the Department and my colleagues to close this reporting loop-hole.

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DACA PROGRAM

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I would like to take a few minutes to shift gears to another issue of great importance. This issue is more hopeful. On June 15, 2012, President Obama enacted DACA—or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—granting deferred action to DREAMers all across the country. Three years later, almost 700,000 hard-working young people are proof that deferred action works.

DACA has changed the lives of countless students who were brought to our country as undocumented children through no fault of their own. The President's action has been truly transformative for many young people in Hawaii. Let me tell you about three such young people.

Gabriela emigrated from Brazil with her family at the age of 15. Despite a 3.8 GPA in high school, she found herself unable to go to college because she lacked required documentation. After receiving DACA, Gabriela enrolled in a community college, paying instate tuition, and is receiving her associate's degree in the spring of 2015 and transferring to the University of Hawaii to earn her bachelor's degree. Receiving DACA was a life-changing moment for Gabriela because it enabled her to do everyday things that she was never able to do before, such as getting a driver's license, opening a bank account, renting her own apartment. It also enabled her to get an education, start a career, and live up to her full potential.

Sam was born in Tonga and brought to Hawaii when he was only 4 years old. His parents petitioned for residency for the whole family. But as a result of a slow and ineffective immigration system, Sam was over 18 years old by the time their petition became current. As a result, 18-year-old Sam was put into deportation proceedings and came very close to being torn away from his family and deported to a country he no longer remembered. Thankfully, the President announced the DACA Program and Sam was granted a stay of deportation and allowed to remain with his family. Today, Sam works as a music director at his church and is currently saving money to return to school and seek his dream of higher education.

Shingai is a DREAMer from Zimbabwe, who immigrated to the United States when he was 12. He did not find out he was undocumented until he graduated from high school and decided to apply for college. Shingai was a star football athlete and won a full football scholarship to go to

college. Unfortunately, with stardom came immediate attention. Due to his undocumented status, he was forced to quit his dream and protect himself and his family from the public eye. Shingai knew the importance of education, so he pursued his degree a few classes at a time. This semester, he is finally set to graduate and earn a bachelor's in political science from Hawaii Pacific University. Receiving DACA has enabled Shingai to come out of the shadows and share his story in order to raise awareness and empower immigrant youth in Hawaii.

These DREAMers no longer have the fear of deportation and family separation hanging over their heads each and every day. DACA recipients are now free to live their lives, to seek an education and work as teachers, engineers, enter our armed services, become business owners.

DACA is life-changing for these young people, but it also has helped all Americans.

Forty-nine percent of DREAMers who were granted DACA were able to open their first bank account, 33 percent were able to obtain a credit card, 60 percent have been able to gain new jobs, contributing to our tax base and our economy. Experts estimate that all deferred action recipients will add \$230 billion to our gross domestic product in the next decade. Quite simply, DACA works.

The American public stands with our DREAMers and immigrant families and smart policies like DACA. Over 70 percent of Americans reject the mass deportation approach favored by some and instead support the President's Executive action. However, DACA is only a temporary solution to address one part of our broken immigration system. It is not a substitute for comprehensive immigration reform.

It has been roughly 2 years since the Senate passed an immigration reform bill with strong bipartisan support. After House Republicans refused to act on comprehensive immigration reform, President Obama built on the success of DACA to use his well-established Executive authority to expand the DACA Program and create a new program for the parents of children born as U.S. citizens. I strongly support the President's action.

Both of these programs could be up and running, helping families and individuals, millions of them, but for a lawsuit filed by some Republican Governors opposed to immigration reform. We must continue fighting to provide relief for millions of parents who should be signing up for DAPA right now, paying their fees and applying for work permits, additional young people who qualify for DACA as well as millions of other hard-working families facing deportation every single day in our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Madam President, this is week 14 of "Waste of the Week." I have been coming to the floor for 14 weeks while the Senate has been in session this year to talk about yet another waste which, if we can correct, can save the taxpayers a lot of money. In this case, we are talking about several billion dollars that have been determined by the inspector general of the Social Security Administration to have been spent improperly, accidentally—by whatever reason—money that belongs to the taxpayers and falls under the category of waste.

It is waste, and I give this inspector general and his staff great credit for doing something very creative and interesting. Actually, this is their job, delving into how an agency handles its business and, more importantly, how it handles the taxpayers' money. Whether you are looking at big business or big government, you find examples of cost cutting that can save the company and, in this case, save the taxpayer, a very significant amount of money.

The inspector general decided to take a random sample of over 1,500 beneficiaries of the Social Security disability fund, and 44.5 percent of them received an overpayment at some point during the 10-year period that he studied. And based on this sample, the Social Security inspector general estimated that overpayments totaled about \$16.8 billion over a period of time from October 2003 to February 2014, covering nearly 4 million beneficiaries. Now, that is a lot of people, but in this digital age, there are ways in which we can ensure that correct payments are made to the right people and that we don't end up overspending money that comes from hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Now, there is some good news to this story because the Social Security Administration, following up on this study, determined to go through its records and try to recover some of this money that had been overpaid. They were successful in recovering nearly half of the \$16.8 billion. They recovered \$8.1 billion of overpayments during this period of time, and I commend them for their effort in doing that. But while we celebrate the good news, we also need to dig in and determine how we make sure this doesn't continue.

There is another \$8.7 billion out there that needs to be recovered and, of course, the goal is to not only recover that money, if possible, but also to keep this from continuing in out-years. So let us put the steps in place that will give us the ability to stop this from happening going forward.

Now, let me go back and give a little background, the history of how this all came about and how this happened. Of those who improperly received benefits, the circumstances break down like this: Nearly 40 percent—actually 37.9 percent—of the overpayments happened when individuals started working and made enough money by law to support themselves and, therefore, no longer qualified for Social Security disability benefits. Another 23 percent had their medical condition improved to the point where they could go back to work.

Now, interestingly enough, I believe it was my very first "Waste of the Week" that I pointed out that a very significant number of individuals were receiving payments both from Social Security disability and unemployment insurance. To receive unemployment insurance, you have to prove you cannot work or you have been thrown out of work and can't get back. To receive Social Security disability payments, you have to prove you no longer are able to work and get back. Yet these people were receiving payments from both of those sources.

That was the very first "Waste of the week," and we put up a chart indicating that we are hoping to reach our goal of \$100 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse, to show the example of money being sent to Washington. Some say: We can't cut a penny from any program. Well, every business that has gone through this great recession—now going on for the sixth year or so—has had to make sacrifices and they have had to cut costs. Families have had to cut costs. Businesses have had to cut costs. Only the Federal Government says we can't cut a penny; every program we have is valuable and has to be saved and, in fact, needs more money to be efficient.

So let's start with those issues that have been determined, through inspections by independent agencies, and proven to have fraud and waste and see if we can add this up. As you can see, this gauge is growing every week.

Returning to the breakdown of those who improperly received benefits: Another 8.6 percent had multiple reasons they were no longer eligible for the benefit, 7.5 percent were imprisoned and had fugitive status, which means they were no longer qualified for the disability benefits, but 7.2 percent of those people continued to receive checks after they had died. So you not only have people in prison and therefore no longer eligible, but 7.2 percent of the people receiving benefits received those after they died, and that totaled up to a very significant amount of money.

Again, we certainly have the technology and the capability to run the death records through the system to make sure checks are not continuing to be sent out to the last home address or whatever to deceased individuals and then taken in and cashed perhaps by family or who knows who.

There were 3.4 percent who weren't entitled to benefits in the first place. It should be pretty easy to scratch those names and save some money. There were 1.8 percent who had their payment improperly computed—in other words, overpayment, a mistake made by the Social Security Administration—1.8 percent had financial resources exceeding the limit which they were supposed to get, 1.7 percent had a change in their living arrangements—they moved abroad and no longer were eligible—and 5 percent fell under another category of reasons.

The bottom line is an inspection was made, a study was conducted to see how this came about, and we now have the information that money was returned through legal process, but there is still \$8.7 billion out there we didn't get back. So we want to make sure measures are now put in place so this doesn't continue. We certainly don't want some Senator on the floor 5 years or 10 years from now saying: Let me tell you about the latest study of the Social Security inspector general, and when the former Senator from Indiana came to the floor he announced there was \$8.7 billion still out there and that we ought to make changes in the system so it wouldn't happen again. But guess what. It didn't get done, and now here I am back at it.

So let's do this now. Let's make these changes now so the American people understand we are here not to extort them from the kind of overpayment that is taking place and using their taxpayer dollars to achieve that goal. We can fix this problem, but it is going to take some work.

We need better cross-referencing for beneficiaries with other government lists or private lists to help identify earned wages or other assets. We need information sharing that can save billions and make a significant financial debt into these unfortunate overpayments.

Assuming the trend of the IG report continues, this change can be made, and the missing \$8.7 billion in overpayments can be recovered by the Social Security Administration in future payments. We haven't calculated what potentially we could save in out-years because, hopefully, we will be able to put measures in place, now that we have this information, that will stop these overpayments from being made. But we do know there is \$8.7 billion out there of money that can be recovered.

So we are adding today a big chunk of money, bringing us up nearly to three-quarters of our goal of reaching \$100 billion in savings from waste, fraud, and abuse. We are only into week 14, and we have several more weeks and months ahead of us. I am hoping we are going to have to put an extension onto this chart. We will see how high it goes. Because our goal is to save the taxpayer dollars that the Federal Government has been proven to waste through waste, fraud, and abuse.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW T. MCGUIRE TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

NOMINATION OF GENTRY O. SMITH, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years; and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, shortly our colleagues will have an opportunity to vote on two nominations that are being recommended by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I see that Senator CORKER is on the floor, and I thank him for his help in bringing these two confirmations to the floor of the Senate. Both of these individuals are well qualified, and I urge our colleagues to support both nominations.

One is the nomination of Matthew McGuire to be United States Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The other is the nomination of Gentry Smith to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions.

Mr. McGuire is the Assistant to the Secretary and Director of the Office of Business Liaison at the Department of Commerce, where he leads engagement with the business community, works to strengthen the international economic position of the United States, and advocates for U.S. trade and investment. Prior to joining the U.S. Government, Mr. McGuire worked as a senior executive in the financial services industry for more than 8 years, but he also has been active with nonprofit and civic organizations throughout his career, working on a range of public policy issues across the country and around the world.

In a world where global health, environmental resources, and security challenges far outstrip any one country's ability to respond, it is in our clear interest to have strong U.S. leadership in the World Bank—the foremost international organization promoting economic development, poverty alleviation, and good governance around the world.

Prominent Members of the House of Representatives emphasized this critical role of the World Bank in their May 15 letter supporting Mr. McGuire's nomination. Representatives MEEKS, CLAY, MURPHY, SEWELL, MENG, RANGEL, and others stated that Mr. McGuire's senior executive experience in the financial services industry and leadership roles with nonprofit and civic organizations working on public policy issues around the world "make him distinctly qualified for this position." Mr. McGuire's highly relevant experience in his current position at the Department of Commerce, added to his extensive background working in both for-profit and nonprofit sectors, make him an excellent choice to represent the United States at this institution that is so crucial for global stability. I am confident he will serve with distinction.

Gentry O. Smith is currently a Senior Advisor at the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The Office of Foreign Missions assists and regulates services for foreign missions in the United States, negotiates with foreign diplomatic representatives to improve operating conditions for U.S. diplomatic missions and personnel abroad, ensures that U.S. diplomatic missions abroad receive equivalent treatment with respect to benefits, privileges, and immunities accorded by the host countries, and, as necessary, adjusts the benefits accorded to foreign missions in the United States on the basis of the principle of reciprocity.

Mr. Smith has an exemplary record of serving his country for well over a quarter of a century, starting with his service as a Raleigh police officer. Mr.

Smith's thorough and highly relevant experience as a Regional Security Officer for American Embassies in Egypt, Japan, and Burma, and his employment with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security as Director of Physical Security Programs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Countermeasures, and Senior Advisor gives him the expertise and fortitude to head the agency responsible for both improving the operating conditions for U.S. diplomatic missions and for adjusting the benefits accorded to foreign missions if our missions abroad face mistreatment.

Mr. Smith is a proven leader with extensive management experience and skills, and I am confident he will be an excellent Director of the Office of Foreign Missions.

Let me also point out that I know our committee has been very, very busy. We have been able to successfully steer towards enactment the bill for congressional review of the Iranian nuclear agreement. We recently were able to report out in a 19-to-0 vote State Department authorization. I must say that not a day goes by that our committee is not doing some work on behalf of the Senate and the American people.

But I need to point out that we need to pay more attention to getting the President's nominees to the floor with recommendations from our committee. If we complete these two nominations tonight—and I assume that we will—I believe that will make four nominees on which we have completed our work in confirmation that the President has sent to us. There are nine other recommendations, five of which are career officers, that have been reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and have yet to be brought to the floor. Five of those nine are career people, and yet we have had no action on the floor of the Senate. Of more concern, there are 35 nominees currently pending before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Of these 35, only 4 have had hearings, and 22 of the 35 are career diplomats.

I understand we have had an extremely busy schedule within the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senator CORKER and I have talked about this, and I know we will use our best efforts to get these nominations moving forward. I just really wanted to report that because I think we need to work—not only our committee but the leadership of the Senate—to make sure the President's nominees are timely considered and are timely brought forward to the full Senate. I know Senator CORKER has been a true advocate of that process and certainly worked very well in the last Congress to make sure our committee acted in a timely way. I look forward to working with Senator CORKER in this Congress to advance those nominees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of these two nominations. I appreciate the distinguished ranking

member, Senator CARDIN, for reading out their bios. They are Foreign Service officers and have been in government service for some time. I applaud their desire to serve at this level and certainly plan to support them here at our 5:30 vote and hope other Members of the Senate will.

As to the point regarding nominations, I think our committee last year couldn't have acted in a more speedy fashion in getting nominees out. I know we are starting a new Congress, and there is a little backlog that takes place. But I can assure the Senator and others on the committee and others in this body that I have no desire to hold up especially Foreign Service officers who have committed their lives to the Foreign Service and have handled themselves in such a professional manner nor, actually, other nominees. So I do look forward to working with Senator CARDIN to clear some folks through. I know we have had conversations today regarding moving them across the Senate floor. I know every time there is a recess, typically a large swath of people are actually moved out right before recess. Hopefully, that will be the case as it relates to some of the Foreign Service nominations that are here.

But I appreciate the Senator raising it. I appreciate the way he works with me, and I look forward to things picking up speed now that the backlog of the first-of-the-year beginning and some of the many activities that have been under way have been completed. So I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, again, let me thank Senator CORKER. It has been a real pleasure to work with him on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has put the interest of the Senate and our Nation as the principle guiding force and the appropriate role for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In that regard, there is an amendment pending that we will be voting on tomorrow on the National Defense Authorization Act. It comes under the jurisdiction of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Let me comment on that, if I might. That is an amendment offered by Senator ERNST, and her amendment would provide temporary authority to provide arms directly to the Kurds, the Kurdish regional government's security forces, outside the process established with coordinating all U.S. weapons deliveries and training with the Government of Iraq and Baghdad. Not only is it the U.S. policy to ensure that all armed transfers are coordinated and approved by the Government of Iraq, it is also the law of our country.

I very much oppose this amendment, and I just want my colleagues to understand why I hope they will reject this amendment. I know it is well intended, but it would undermine the authority of the central government.

What we are looking for, how we are going to ultimately be able to bring stability to Iraq, we need to have a central government that represents all the communities of Iraq, that represents the Shias, represents the Sunnis, represents the Kurds. If the central government cannot be the coordinating entity, then we are going to have a void in that country which only fuels the ability of organizations such as ISIS to be able to get recruits and resources for their terrorist activities.

We are sending military advisers, funding, and arms to the Iraqis and leading a global coalition and working every day with the Iraqi leaders and communities at all levels because we have an interest in a stable, unified, and Federal Iraq. To achieve this goal, we must have the confidence of all of the Iraqi leaders, and that is why it is important for us to coordinate our strategy through a central government.

I want to make one other point absolutely clear. There is absolutely no evidence that the Baghdad government is delaying or denying arms to the Kurds. To date, the United States and the anti-ISIL coalition has provided over 47 million rounds of ammunition, thousands of artillery pieces and rifles, 1,000 AT4 shoulder-fired, anti-armor systems, hundreds of vehicles, including Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, known as the MRAPs, and European missiles to counter vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices. They have been receiving arms.

We have received letters, both the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee, from Secretary of State Kerry and Secretary of Defense Carter in opposition to the Ernst amendment.

If I might quote from Secretary Kerry, where he said:

Any language that calls for preferred treatment for one region of Iraq strengthens voices that have been working against the pragmatic reconciliation policies advocated by Prime Minister Abadi. . . . It also reinforces Iran's narrative that the United States seeks Iraq's partition and that Iran is Iraq's only true and reliable partner. The result, therefore, is the precise opposite of what may have been intended: the language strengthens ISIL and other extremists, weakens Iraqi voices committed to working with the Coalition to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL, increased Iran's prominence, and erodes state authority at a time when such authority is vitally needed to isolate and defeat extremist actors.

What Secretary Kerry is saying is—that it should be pretty obvious—that in order to diminish Iran's influence in Iraq, you need a central government that has the confidence of the Sunni population and the Kurdish population. If, on the other hand, we are talking about trying to divide the country, that we are going to deal differently with the Kurdish defense and not through the central defense, then it feeds into the point that the United States is not serious about developing a unified Iraqi authority. We must

have that if we are going to be able to succeed in Iraq.

What Secretary Carter said, Secretary of Defense:

Directly arming the Kurds or other groups within Iraq is inconsistent with the long-standing U.S. foreign policy of working to maintain a stable, unified, Iraq. . . . Legislative language of this type risks undermining the Government of Iraq and undercutting ongoing coalition military operations that are conducting in coordination with the Government of Iraq to degrade, destroy, and ultimately defeat ISIL.

Once again, we have our two top individuals both telling us this would be counterproductive. I know my colleague is well intentioned with her amendment, but the fact is that the only way we are going to succeed in Iraq is if we can have a Government of Iraq that has the confidence of all the communities and an Iraqi Government that believes the United States is not picking sides among the ethnic communities in Iraq and that Iraq does not have to rely on Iran for its security needs.

That means this amendment could be counterproductive to those very goals, our very goals in Iraq. When this amendment comes up for vote tomorrow, I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I will be supporting the nominee who is going to be shortly voted on.

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DACA PROGRAM

Mr. President, I take this opportunity to rise on the third anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program for all of the young men and women it has helped—young men and women who came to this country as young children through no choice of their own. Their parents made that decision for them. The only country they have ever known is that of the United States. The only flag they pledge allegiance to is the American flag. The only national anthem they know is "The Star-Spangled Banner." And because of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, they have had temporary deportation relief and work authorizations so they could achieve their full potential as young Americans.

I celebrate what we call this program, DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, with great pride because I pushed very hard to make it a reality. I spoke to the President many times about granting long overdue administrative relief to DREAMers, who are Americans in every way except for a piece of paper.

And 3 years ago with the tireless advocacy of DREAMers, the immigrant community, community leaders in cities and towns across America, and with the help of countless Members of Congress, the President took action and changed the lives of millions of young men and women living in this country, allowing them to fully contribute to the country they call home.

Today, the dream is still very much alive. This Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program has harnessed the talent of hundreds of thousands of young Americans in immeasurable ways since its successful inception, and it is a success because of the bold Executive actions taken in June of 2012.

In an immigration system that is as flawed as ours, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program has been a beacon of hope, one step toward a more fair and just reality for immigrants in our great country. The numbers tell the story.

The action gave 700,000 young immigrants a chance at a better life. It has strengthened our economy and has generated roughly \$422 million in application fees over the last 3 years. It has allowed young Americans to open bank accounts, get a driver's license, get a new job, prepare for the future with a growing sense of stability, economic security, and financial solvency.

This program has been a model of success, shaped by the courageous individuals who have decided to come forward, register with the government, pass a criminal background check, work hard, and take advantage of the opportunities the deferred action program provides.

In my home State of New Jersey alone, more than 25,000 young people have been granted the peace of mind that comes with temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work. We are talking about young people who attend our schools, serve our communities, people who dream just like all children dream of becoming doctors or teachers, artists, and entrepreneurs with a full stake in America.

We are talking about people like Deyanira Aldana, who graduated from Essex County College just this past May. She came to the United States when she was 4 years old. She now works and lives in New Jersey with her mom and dad and older brother and sister who are also DACA recipients. She plans on becoming a substitute teacher and is grateful to the doors the deferred action program has opened to her.

Deyanira, like other new Americans and future Americans, is part of the rich fabric that forms New Jersey's and America's histories and destiny. Her family represents who we are as a nation. They embody the spirit of American life, which has always been shaped by the hopes, dreams, and courage of those who have made it to this country and called it their home.

It is appropriate that these deferred action beneficiaries—the children of

immigrants we refer to as DREAMers—have the chance to fully contribute their talents and live the American dream because of the deferred action program. In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, DACA allows them to live with dignity and fulfill their full potential. Because of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, hundreds of thousands of DREAMers no longer have the fear of deportation and family separation hanging over their heads and now are our newest college students, teachers, and small business owners. If we look closely at who those individuals are, we see that this program is about families like Deyanira's. By removing the fear of deportation, of being unnecessarily torn from your loved ones at a moment's notice, more families can now live in peace, with dignity, and with real hopes of building a stronger future together.

Three years later, we see how our Nation's dreams and aspirations are more attainable when DREAMers can achieve their full potential. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program is living proof that all of America benefits when an undocumented individual steps out of the shadows and is able to fully contribute to the economy through their ingenuity, skills, and hard work.

We need to build upon programs like DACA, not turn our backs on extending opportunities to those who are willing to work hard for them. It is long past time for us to replace the lingering anxiety and fear in immigrant communities with smart policies that make good on America's promise to provide opportunity and freedom for all.

For many, the dream began with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. For others, that dream is still delayed. I look forward to the day the President's more recent Executive actions announcing the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability Program and expanded DACA are implemented.

Despite the obstructionism of some, I am confident justice will ultimately prevail, and the President's actions will be upheld by our courts. I will continue to fight not just for the DACA recipients but for their parents, other DREAMers, and for every immigrant family. I will continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform that will fix our Nation's broken immigration system once and for all, not just because it makes good economic sense but because it is the right thing to do.

I am not alone. Seventy-two percent of Americans believe undocumented immigrants who currently live in the United States should have a path toward permanent residency and ultimately to legal citizenship. Americans continue to overwhelmingly support fixing our broken system, and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program's success should further encourage Congress to move forward, for-

tified by the conviction that comprehensive immigration reform is a fight worth fighting for.

Let me close by saying, in the meantime, I join my colleagues in commemorating DACA's anniversary as a day that marks 3 years of smart and successful policy, as a step in the right direction, and as a foundation upon which we can continue to build. It is an opportunity for the American dream to be realized by some of the youngest and best and brightest whom we have in the Nation. Many of these young men and women—I have met them—are valedictorians, salutatorians, and we need to use their intellect, energy, and creative talents to build a better America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MCGUIRE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years?

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 208 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Alexander
Ayotte

Baldwin
Bennet

Blumenthal
Booker

Brown	Gillibrand	Murray
Cantwell	Grassley	Nelson
Cardin	Hatch	Peters
Carper	Heinrich	Portman
Casey	Heitkamp	Reed
Cassidy	Hirono	Reid
Coats	Johnson	Sanders
Collins	Kaine	Schatz
Coons	King	Schumer
Corker	Kirk	Shaheen
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cotton	Leahy	Tester
Donnelly	Manchin	Tillis
Durbin	Markey	Udall
Ernst	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Flake	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gardner	Murphy	

NAYS—24

Barrasso	Hooven	Roberts
Blunt	Isakson	Rounds
Boozman	Lankford	Sasse
Capito	McConnell	Scott
Daines	Moran	Sullivan
Enzi	Paul	Thune
Fischer	Perdue	Toomey
Heller	Risch	Wicker

NOT VOTING—14

Boxer	Graham	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
Cruz	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MAGNA CARTA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Eight hundred years ago on this very day, at the field of Runnymede alongside the River Thames in England, King John granted the document that came to be known as the Magna Carta—in our language, the Great Charter. This was the result of negotiations between King John and rebellious barons who objected to what they saw as violations of their customary privileges. By affixing his Great Seal to the document 800 years ago today, the King accepted limits on his power to impose his will on his subjects.

It was a momentous occasion, as evidenced by the fact that four original

copies of the Magna Carta remain carefully preserved, but its significance has grown over time. It is true that the original Magna Carta was only in effect for a couple months before King John then at that time got the Pope to annul it. Subsequent Kings voluntarily reissued the charter as a way of gaining the support of the barons, and portions still retain legal force in England today.

While many of the specific provisions in the Magna Carta dealt with very medieval concerns, such as how heirs and widows of deceased barons should be treated, a couple clauses resonate very strongly to this very day.

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.

To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay justice or rightful justice.

In these clauses, you can see the specific right of habeas corpus that was included in the U.S. Constitution as well as a right to speedy trial by jury in the Sixth Amendment. You can also see a reference to property rights. Moreover, what comes through is the overarching theme of the Magna Carta—something very basic to U.S. governance—the rule of law or what John Adams called “a government of laws, and not of men.”

In the 17th century, the Magna Carta was increasingly cited to criticize the King's exercise of arbitrary power in the tug-of-war for supremacy between the English Crown and the Parliament. It became a potent symbol of an inviolable liberties of Englishmen.

For instance, when William Penn was put on trial in England for practicing his Quaker faith, he used the Magna Carta in his defense. He later wrote a commentary on the Magna Carta for a work printed in Philadelphia called “The Excellent Privilege of Liberty and Property Being the Birth-Right of the Free-born Subjects of England,” which contained the first edition of the Magna Carta printed in the New World. In this work, William Penn explained the significance of the English tradition where the ruler is bound by the law, in contrast to countries such as France, where the King was actually the law.

He wrote, again quoting William Penn:

In England the Law is both the measure and the bound of every Subject's duty and allegiance, each man having a Fixed Fundamental right born with him, as to freedom of his person and property in his estate, which he cannot be deprived of, but either by his consent, or some crime, for which the law has imposed such a penalty for forfeiture.

It is in this environment that the English philosopher John Locke developed his theory of natural rights, which was so influential in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. The natural rights philosophy went a step further than the ancient rights of

Englishmen, positing that the rights are God-given and self-evident and that the very purpose of government is to secure those rights.

However, you can clearly trace the lineage of the notion of limited government and consent of the governed to the Magna Carta. In fact, the original version of the Magna Carta contained a clause limiting the ability of the King to levy certain taxes on the barons without first consulting them. I think you can clearly see that this is an early version of what we say: No taxation without representation.

While that provision did not last, the custom of needing consent for taxation eventually led to the evolution of the parliamentary system and representative government. Still, it is important to note that representative government grew out of even more fundamental principles, such as the rule of law, limited government, and the notion that citizens retain rights that the government may not in any way violate.

Our Founding Fathers thought that representative government was the best way to guard against tyranny and preserve the rights of citizens. But that is not sufficient, because without a strong tradition of respect for the rule of law, even duly-elected governments can descend into tyranny. Now, remember the history of Germany pre-World War II. Hitler came to power as a result of a democratic process and then proceeded to act in the very definition of tyranny.

In more recent times, Vladimir Putin was elected President of Russia and then stifled opposition and consolidated power to himself, essentially putting himself above the law. When Sergei Magnitsky stood up for the rule of law in Russia and exposed corruption at the highest levels in that country, he was imprisoned in appalling conditions, where he died a slow, agonizing death.

By contrast, the 800-year old Anglo-American tradition of the rule of law acts as a crucial safeguard to our liberty—not only that, but it is also an essential foundation for prosperity. An organization called World Justice Project has ranked countries based on various factors that indicate how a strong the rule of law is in that particular country. The countries at the top tend to not only be ones we recognize as very free but also tend to be much more prosperous than countries ranked at the bottom of the rule of law index.

Now, maybe to us in America that makes common sense. I think it is common sense. You are less likely, then, to work hard to generate wealth or invest in a business if you cannot be sure that the law will protect what you worked for. Still, we should not take this 800-year-old document and tradition for granted. It will continue to preserve our liberty and provide for our prosperity only so long as it retains the reverence it has built up over the generations.

Human nature being what it is, there is still always a temptation for those in power to think they are above the law. For instance, in the famous Frost interviews after he resigned the Presidency over the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon was asked about the legal limits of what a President can do. Nixon answered: "If the President does it, that means it's not illegal."

He could not have been more wrong from the standpoint of the U.S. Constitution and the fundamental principles on which it is founded, going all the way back to the Magna Carta. Still the danger does not just come from megalomaniacs and others who seek to use power for their own purposes. Those entrusted with power who would act outside the law, even when they think it is good for their people as they see it, end up eroding the bulwark of liberty that is the rule of law. Ever since the Progressive Era, there has been a powerful school of thought that our system of divided and limited government is somehow inefficient, that we should have evolved beyond the need for limits on governmental power, and that power concentrated in the right hands can be used to help people.

This is a temptation for every President and one I fear the current President is particularly susceptible to. In fact, modern Presidents have tools at their disposal that go far beyond anything envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution. The Constitution says that the role of the President is not to write laws, but to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

We now have a massive administrative state made up of departments and agencies to which Congress has delegated enormous power and that make regulations with the force of law. Moreover, these agencies have the power to enforce their own regulations and the primary role in interpreting their regulation in individual cases. Thus, they exercise legislative, executive, and judicial power all in the one.

But this concentration of power in executive branch agencies creates a strong temptation for Presidents to use it to implement their agenda irrespective of Congress or the law of the land. I have been very critical of President Obama for a number of actions that I think exceed his legal authority, from using the Clean Water Act to try to regulate land use decisions in virtually every county in our country to forcing States to adopt his preferred education policies in order to get funding and waivers to granting a massive amnesty from our immigration laws, which even he previously admitted he did not have the legal authority to do.

I think these are bad policies. But even those who see these as short-term policy victories should be very wary of the long-term consequences of anything that erodes our tradition of respect for the rule of law.

Now, as I finish, it took 800 years to build up, and once it is eroded it will not be easy to restore. It is vital that

Presidents exercise restraint out of respect for the rule of law.

Congress should also work to reclaim much of the power it has delegated to the executive branch in order to reduce the temptation and the opportunity for abuse of executive power. It is not just up to elected officials. Our ancient tradition of the rule of law draws its authority from the fact that generations have demanded that their leaders adhere to the rule of law. As such, this 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta is an occasion for Americans to remember our heritage and to rededicate ourselves to this bedrock of liberty, the rule of law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, for most children around the country the school year has ended and the summer has begun. Some 700,000 children in Ohio, my home State, during the school year receive free or reduced-price school lunches on an average day—some 700,000 children. Those children might not have access to a nutritious meal when school cafeterias close for the summer.

Summer break should not mean a break from good nutrition. That is where the Summer Food Service Program steps in. The U.S. Department of Agriculture works with State departments of education to ensure that every child has sufficient, adequate, nutritious food to keep growing and learning after the final school bell rings. This year in Ohio there will be 1,500 Summer Food Service Program sites across the State.

Last year these sites served almost 4 million meals. Last week, I spoke with Winnie Brewer, who runs these sites in Marion County, OH, in a city about the size of Mansfield, near where I grew up.

According to Winnie, more than one in four kids in her county is food insecure. She talked about one of their newest volunteers, who came to her in tears after watching a 6-year-old boy clean the shelves in an SFSP site—a feeding site—and then start digging through the trash. He was just that hungry. That is why the work Winnie does and her volunteers do is so important.

Right now, too many families don't know about this critical program. Too many families miss out on receiving its assistance once school lets out. Winnie reports that just 1 in 10 children who receive breakfast or lunch during the school year comes to summer feeding sites. That means that in my State almost 700,000 children on any given school day will be getting a free or reduced-price breakfast or lunch—700,000. But during the summer months, only about 70,000 of those children get these meals or snacks. We need to do all we can to raise public awareness of these programs so that families know that

the end of the school year does not mean an end to food services for their children.

In Marion, the city I mentioned where Winnie runs her program, she anticipates she will triple the number of meals she serves this year compared to 5 years ago. That is because she and other community partners have committed to making this program a success. At approved schools, in churches, in summer camps, in synagogues, and in community centers, pools, and recreation centers, volunteers and organizers are ensuring that children have the healthy food they need to succeed.

Those sites often offer more than just healthy meals. They provide summer enrichment activities for kids. We know that low-income children whose parents typically have less education, in the months from school closing in late May or early June until school returns in late August or early September, tend to fall back on their education. In districts such as that where the parents have less education, less ability or know-how to read to the children, to take them on field trips that might make their minds more active, we know those children start every fall having to catch up just to get back to where they were in the spring.

That is one of the beauties of the summer feeding program. So you are not just giving these children nutritious meals, but you are also giving these children library activities and sports activities and other kinds of organized activities at churches, at community centers, at schools, and at libraries that can matter. The sites in Marion County partner with the YMCA to offer exercise. They run a literacy program that provides free books to kids at feeding sites. Getting a new book can turn a child on and get that child more excited about reading.

Earlier this month, I was in Youngstown—a city in northeast Ohio—to get the word out about the summer food and feeding program. I met with Mark Samuel, who operates a site at the West Side Community Center and a couple dozen other sites in Mahoning Valley. I also met with Retha Austin, who has children and grandchildren in the program, and now she is working a few hours a week as a paid worker to help get this program up and running.

Families need to know about these sites and the dedicated folks like Mark, Winnie, and Retha who run them. Summer break shouldn't mean a break from good nutrition.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

MILITARY JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, tomorrow we will vote on a very important amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, the Military

Justice Improvement Act, introduced by my colleague and friend, the junior Senator from the State of New York. I have worked with her and have been privileged to help craft this very important legislative measure, not because sexual assault is a uniquely military problem—in fact, just the contrary. Sexual assault afflicts our campuses and our workplaces. The battle against sexual assault is hardly limited to the military. But we have the opportunity to take a step that will set a model and send a message to other places where sexual assault is a problem and where underreporting, because of lack of trust and confidence in the prosecutorial system or the administrative apparatus, is a major reason that sexual assault continues. Without confidence, trust, effective results, and protection of privacy and physical safety, survivors will simply not come forward. If they do not come forward, there will be no discipline or prosecution. That is the fundamental reason why I believe the amendment we will address tomorrow is so important.

I have held roundtables on campus sexual assault all around the State of Connecticut—more than 12 or 13 of them—and have worked with a bipartisan group of Senators, including not only Senator GILLIBRAND, who is the major sponsor of this amendment, but also Senator McCASKILL, who has been an extraordinary leader in this area having been a prosecutor herself, and Senator HELLER as well as others on both sides of the aisle, to devise a solution to campus sexual assault—not just a single panacea but a set of measures that addresses one of the major obstacles to effective action against campus sexual assault, which is the underreporting of this heinous, horrific crime. It is a crime wherever it occurs, whether in the military or on campus. That is why we have to combat and conquer it, just as we do an enemy who preys on our men or women in uniform or on campuses or elsewhere.

We went through this debate last year. We reached a solution last year, which we hoped would, in fact, be a solution. But the simple, plain fact is that this insidious, pernicious epidemic of sexual assault in the military continues unabated or at least unreduced by the amount that we should regard as minimum for judging this supposed solution a success.

The fact is that the Department of Defense's own research shows that 52 unwanted sexual contacts occur every day on average across the military. That is the same rate it was 5 years ago in 2010. The fact is that in fiscal year 2014, the Department of Defense estimates 62 percent of servicewomen experienced retaliation for coming forward, the same percentage as 2012. Servicemembers who report assault are 12 times more likely to experience retaliation for reporting their cases than seeing the assailant convicted of a crime. Retaliation is more likely than effective discipline or punishment against the perpetrator.

The amendment we have offered, the Military Justice Improvement Act, seeks to address this issue through explicit codification of punishment for any person—any person—deciding to retaliate against anyone who reports this crime of sexual assault. Explicit punishment for retaliation will not only send a message, but it will deter what is in civilian terms one of the most severe crimes, known as obstruction of justice.

The reason why retaliation or obstruction of justice is so insidious is it prevents the justice system from reaching a just result. It not only deters victims and survivors from coming forward regardless of the crime, it also permits perpetrators and criminals to go free and feel they can again commit the crime of sexual assault or other crimes. But in the case of sexual assault, it is particularly pernicious because we know also from statistics that this crime is recommitted. There is recidivism at a higher rate than many others. A large proportion of sexual assaults is committed by a very tiny fraction of members of the military.

What happens, in effect, on campuses or in the military is there are serial rapists, serial perpetrators of sexual assault. If they feel they can do it without consequences, they will continue to commit this crime.

We have learned from many survivors that the anxiety to come forward stems not only from the fear of retaliation but from the bias and inherent conflict of interest entrenched in the chain of command. The fact is that the Department of Defense estimates that 60 percent of cases involve a supervisor or a unit leader. Think of that number—60 percent of cases involving alleged sexual assault are committed by the supervisor or the unit leader in the U.S. military.

The MJIA—the Military Justice Improvement Act—the amendment we will offer tomorrow and will vote on, will address this obstacle by amending the Uniform Code of Military Justice to assign the decisionmaking power regarding sexual assault to an independent, trained prosecutor or, actually, a team of professional military prosecutors, while leaving decisions to the chain of command regarding purely military crime.

I recognize there is an argument that good order and discipline require the chain of command to work as a source of discipline and punishment and justice. But where retaliation, bias, and conflicts of interest are so prevalent and so inherent in the process, where the chain of command is making decisions about the perpetrator, who so commonly is in that chain of command, these decisions should be made by independent, trained, military prosecutors.

The type of crime involved here, sexual assault, is one that is very difficult, excruciatingly daunting to prosecute simply because of the nature of

this crime, the nature of the evidence, and the nature of the testimony. So trained, professional military lawyers are in a better position to make these decisions about whether to go forward—not just decisions about what evidence to introduce but whether the evidence justifies the prosecution, whether proof can be presented that will do justice, not just reach a conviction.

Our amendment will entrust military lawyers with specialized training in prosecuting complex cases to make those prosecutorial decisions.

Removing the commanders from the prosecutorial process will also protect the privacy of victims when reporting these crimes. Typically, they involve some of the most intimate of details.

A trained, independent, military prosecutor and removing the commander from those decisions will protect privacy and encourage reporting. I believe this step is a critical next step in this effort to improve the military justice system.

I have immense respect for colleagues who disagree with me. Some of them are seasoned prosecutors, extraordinarily talented and dedicated lawyers, and we may differ on these issues.

Many of our allies, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, Germany, Norway, and Australia, have already taken steps to remove sexual assault reporting and prosecution from the regular chain of command. Military leaders there report no particular change in their ability to maintain good order or discipline. The facts are there to justify removing these decisions from the chain of command.

But I hope colleagues who disagree with me will continue this effort—I know they will—to improve our military justice system. We can agree to disagree on this step. We should agree to move forward on other steps where we can reach consensus because we have in common much more than we have in conflict—that the greatest, strongest military in the history of the world should be rid of this heinous crime. That is our military. We owe it to the men and women who serve in uniform to have a system of justice that matches their courage, strength, and skill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BURUNDI

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the political crisis in Burundi, and to urge continued action by the administration and the international community to prevent violence and mass atrocities.

As my colleagues may be aware, the country has a troubled history of violence and instability. A 12-year civil war resulted in 300,000 deaths. Though the past 10 years have been relatively stable, there have been troubling reports of murders, harassment, and intimidation in rural areas carried out by the Imbonerakure, an armed youth group believed to be associated with the ruling party. According to the United Nations, U.N., over 90,000 refugees have fled Burundi since April, concerned about potential violence in the runup to the July 15 Presidential election. Some of the refugees claim they fear being targeted by government-allied militia. More than 27,000 refugees have fled to Rwanda, a country with its own troubled history of ethnic conflict.

President Pierre Nkurunziza's announcement on April 25 that he was running for a third term—a move which appears to violate the Burundian constitution—has caused over 1 month of protests in the Burundian capital, Bujumbura. The Burundian Red Cross has stated that at least 21 people have died during the protests, most reportedly killed by police who have fired live ammunition at protesters. Others have been killed by a series of grenade attacks by unknown parties and more than 500 have been injured. On May 23, opposition leader Zedi Feruzi was killed by unidentified gunmen, and private radio and television stations have been raided, burned, and shut down. Social media websites used to organize protests have been blocked and prominent journalists and activists have been arrested. While some of these individuals have since been released, the crackdown on dissenting voices is disturbing. There are also reports of smaller protests outside of the capital, which signals the potential for the violence to spread, should the police respond in a similarly heavyhanded way. The situation is volatile and analysts are increasingly concerned that the situation could suddenly erupt into wide-scale killings resulting in hundreds of deaths.

The Obama administration has been actively engaged in an effort to avert mass atrocities in Burundi for more than a year. Various senior-level administration officials—including former U.S. Special Envoy for the African Great Lakes Russ Feingold, Ambassador Samantha Power, Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Under Secretary Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary Sarah Sewall, and even Secretary of State John Kerry—have spoken with Burundian officials, regional leaders, and other international donors in an effort to dissuade President Nkurunziza from running for office again.

In the wake of the protests, regional leaders are playing an active role in trying to calm the situation. The countries of the East African Community, EAC, have sent Foreign Ministers to Bujumbura to discuss the crisis with a range of stakeholders. The organiza-

tion held two emergency meetings in May, one of which Assistant Secretary of State Thomas-Greenfield attended. The African Union and the International Conference of the Great Lakes have also convened to discuss the crisis.

I applaud ongoing administration and regional efforts. I am concerned, however, that they may not be sufficient. The U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, Said Djinnit, was dispatched to bring the parties together to find a negotiated solution, but he has stepped down after being accused by opposition groups of being biased toward the government's position. Despite the delay in the polls from June to July, conditions for a democratic contest do not exist. There is no space for the opposition to campaign and the media cannot operate freely. And even in the face of the international community's repeated visits, calls, and messaging on the importance of putting the good of the country before personal political ambitions, President Nkurunziza still has refused to do the right thing and step aside as his party's candidate.

I recommend that we take three additional steps. No. 1, urge U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and African Union, AU, Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to work with regional leaders to achieve a common approach to a political settlement for Burundi that includes Pierre Nkurunziza stepping aside as his party's candidate. It should also include a postponement of elections until a way forward is agreed to by the ruling party and the opposition that lays the groundwork for a legitimate contest. The current delay in the polling date gets us nowhere if conditions for credible elections still are not in place. A show of solidarity on these issues will powerfully signal the international community's commitment to a transparent, fair democratic process, and could serve to alleviate tension on the ground. President Nkurunziza should be urged to hold police responsible for killing protesters, ensure that media can operate freely, and allow for some means of verification that he is disarming the Imbonerakure and other armed militia as called for by the EAC and referenced by the African Union.

No. 2, I urge President Obama to appoint a Great Lakes Special Envoy to replace Russ Feingold as soon as possible. Having a senior-level State Department official working fulltime toward a negotiated settlement at this volatile time will greatly enhance the efforts that administration officials are making to ensure peace.

Finally, I call upon the administration to refrain from beginning new training of, or making additional plans to provide military equipment to, the Burundian military at this juncture. While the military has not been accused of violence against civilians or abuses related to the protests, I see no advantage in moving forward with additional programs given the volatile

situation on the ground. We can resume assistance once we are confident that the security situation is stable.

The situation in Burundi is troubling, but I do not believe it is hopeless. I stand ready to support the administration's efforts to prevent another tragedy from unfolding in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 12, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1568. An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2685. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1295) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether such organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such code, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate, and that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, June 15, 2015, he has signed the following bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY):

S. 1568. An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2685. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal

year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 15, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1568. An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1868. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2015-2016 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0096; FV15-985-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1869. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0106; FV15-925-2 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1870. A communication from the Director of the Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Descriptive Designation for Needle- or Blade-Tenderized (Mechanically Tenderized) Beef Products" (RIN0583-AD45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1871. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2014-15 Crop Year for Tart Cherries" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0077; FV14-930-2 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1872. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Mar-

keting Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1B FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1873. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Relaxation of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 3" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0092; FV15-948-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1874. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the current and future military strategy of Iran (OSS-2015-0852); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1875. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral John W. Miller, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1876. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of three (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1877. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Requirements for Appraisal Management Companies" (RIN3170-AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1878. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1879. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Person to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AG55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1880. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Clarification for Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts" ((RIN1904-AB99) (Docket No. EERE-2009-BT-TP-0016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1881. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1882. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1883. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Butte County Air Quality Management District, Feather River Air Quality Management District, and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution District" (FRL No. 9928-09-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1884. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9928-78-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1885. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of New Mexico; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard and Repeal of Cement Kilns Rule" (FRL No. 9928-80-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1886. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems and Amending Stage I Vapor Recovery Requirements" (FRL No. 9928-86-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1887. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions" (FRL No. 9928-79-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1888. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Iowa; Grain Vacuuming Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Rescission Rules" (FRL No. 9928-90-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1889. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Section 503 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act: Prospective Payment System for Federally-Qualified Health

Centers and Rural Health Clinics Transition Grants"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1890. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to the Visa Waiver Program to Implement the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) Program and the Fee for Use of the System ." ((RIN1651-AA72 and RIN1651-AA83) (CBP Dec. 15-08)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1891. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Shared Savings Program: Accountable Care Organizations" ((RIN0938-AS06) (CMS-1461-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1892. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0895); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1893. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0894); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1894. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0892); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1895. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0893); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1896. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-016); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1897. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0059-2015-0066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1898. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Synthetic Iron Oxide; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2013-C-1008) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1899. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Postmarking Safety Reports

for Human Drug and Biological Products; Electronic Submission Requirements; Delay of Compliance Date; Safety Reporting Portal of Electronic Submission of Postmarking Safety Reports for Human Drugs and Non-vaccine Biological Products" ((RIN0910-AF96) (Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0334)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1900. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterinary Feed Directive" ((RIN0910-AG95) (Docket No. FDA-2010-N-0155)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1901. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criterion—First in the World Program" (Docket No. ED-2015-OPE-0001) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1902. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Banned Devices; General Provisions; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1903. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1904. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1905. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1906. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1907. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Effects of the District's Sick and Safe Leave Act"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1908. A communication from the Inspector General, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1909. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Labor's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1910. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1911. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1912. A communication from the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils and Scientific and Statistical Committees and on Apportionment of Membership of the Regional Fishery Management Councils"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1913. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North and South Atlantic 2015 Commercial Swordfish Quotas" (RIN0648-XD726) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1914. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures for the 2015 Tribal and Non-Tribal Fisheries for Pacific Whiting" (RIN0648-BE74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1915. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions No. 1 and No. 2" (RIN0648-XD868) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1916. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacktip Sharks, Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks, and Hammerhead Sharks in the Gulf of Mexico Region" (RIN0648-XD911) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1917. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD908) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1918. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, transmitting proposed legislation to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the Quarterly Financial Report (QFR) program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1919. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1278)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1920. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0589)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1921. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0074)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1922. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Aerotechnics (formerly Intertechnique Aircraft Systems) Oxygen Mask Regulators" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-1107)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1923. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0766)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1924. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0491)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1925. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Enstrom Helicopter Corporation" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1537)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1926. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0636)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1927. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; GROB-WERKE Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0415)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1928. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0429)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1929. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1130)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1930. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0038)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1931. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0936)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1932. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0286)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1933. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (12); Amdt. No. 3639" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1934. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (131); Amdt. No. 3640" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1935. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Baghdad (ORBB) Flight Information Region (FIR)" ((RIN2120-AK60) (Docket No. FAA-2003-14766)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1936. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Portland Rose Festival on Willamette River, Portland, OR" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0484)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1937. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lakeside July 4th Fireworks, Lake Erie; Lakeside, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0388)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1938. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones, Captain of the Port New Orleans Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1069)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1939. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2015 Annual Review and Adjustment" ((RIN1625-AC22) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0481)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1940. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Loading and Outbound Transit of TUG THOMAS and BARGE OCEANUS, Savannah River; Savannah, GA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0280)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1941. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation, Annual Dragon Boat Races, Portland, Oregon." (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0453)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1942. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Biscayne Bay, Miami Beach, FL" (RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0719) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1943. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Fireworks Displays in the Sector Columbia River Captain of the Port Zone" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0300) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1944. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, Detroit River; Detroit, MI" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0389) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1945. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale New River Raft Race, New River; Fort Lauderdale, FL" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1946. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition of Fixed-Wing Special Visual Flight Rules Operations at Washington-Dulles International Airport; Withdrawal" (RIN2120-AK69) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0190) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1947. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Pasco, WA" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0279) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1948. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cypress, TX" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0743) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1949. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace; Jupiter, FL" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0796) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1950. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Providence, Rhode Island)" (MB Docket No. 15-98, DA 15-621) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1951. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 15, 25, 27, 74, 78, 80, 87, 90, 97, and 101 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Implementation of the Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2007), Other Allocation Issues, and Related Rule Updates" (ET Docket No. 12-338; ET Docket No. 15-99; and IB Docket No. 06-123, FCC 15-50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 558. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-65).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*David S. Shapira, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2019.

*Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1571. A bill to preserve the constitutional authority of Congress and ensure accountability and transparency in legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1572. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by

requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 1573. A bill to establish regional weather forecast offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1574. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a community care wrap-around support demonstration program, a pilot project on services for recipients of federally assisted housing, and a national campaign to raise awareness of the aging network and to promote advance integrated long-term care planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1575. A bill to end the unconstitutional delegation of legislative power which was exclusively vested in the Senate and House of Representatives by article I, section 1 of the Constitution of the United States, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress detailing the extent of the problem of unconstitutional delegation to the end that such delegations can be phased out, thereby restoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers set forth in the first sections of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1576. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 201. A resolution designating June 19, 2015, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 202. A resolution designating June 15, 2015, as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 248

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 355

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to support the provision of safe relationship behavior education and training.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians.

S. 491

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 667

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 683

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 683, a bill to extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient

observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1424

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1424, a bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads.

S. 1458

At the request of Mr. COATS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1458, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure scientific transparency in the development of environmental regulations and for other purposes.

S. 1483

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1483, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to curtail the use of changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund to inflate spending.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added

as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1513, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1532

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to ensure timely access to affordable birth control for women.

S. 1539

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1547, a bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1565

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to allow the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to provide greater protection to servicemembers.

S. RES. 193

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 193, a resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the historic *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision of the Supreme Court of the United States and expressing the sense of the Senate that the case was an important step forward in helping ensure that all people of the United States are able to use contraceptives to plan pregnancies and have healthier babies.

AMENDMENT NO. 1474

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1474 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1549

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1549 proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1549 proposed to H.R. 1735, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1550

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1550 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1578

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1578 proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1687

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1687 proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1707

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1707 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1725

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1725 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1759

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1759 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1815

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1815 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1889

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1889 proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1889 proposed to H.R. 1735, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1892

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1892 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1966

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1966 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2013

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2013 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today, along with Senator DAINES, I introduced the East Rosebud Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This legislation will help ensure that one of my state's most striking waterways is preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

In south central Montana, East Rosebud Creek meanders through the Absoraka-Beartooth Wilderness before pooling briefly at East Rosebud Lake. From there, the creek continues to flow down through the Custer National Forest and on, eventually, to the Yellowstone River.

My legislation would protect 20 of the most scenic miles of East Rosebud Creek: those 13 miles above East Rosebud Lake and seven more on the downstream side. Designating these sections of river will protect its water quality and the free-flowing nature of the river, and will have no impact on private property.

Local ranchers, businesses, homeowners associations, conservation groups, and everyday Montanans have recognized the need for a Wild and Scenic Rivers designation and have voiced their support. In its current management plan for Custer National Forest, the Forest Service also recognizes the incredible scenic and recreational values of East Rosebud Creek, and the river's potential for designation.

In short, this bipartisan legislation is a proposal that comes tailor-made from folks on the ground and will preserve a portion of Montana's outdoor heritage for our kids and grandkids.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 201—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2015, AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH SLAVERY LEGALLY CAME TO AN END IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 201

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing “Juneteenth Independence Day” for 150 years;

Whereas 43 States, the District of Columbia, and other countries have designated “Juneteenth Independence Day” as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas “Juneteenth Independence Day” celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865;

Whereas Frederick Douglass, born in the State of Maryland in 1818, escaped from slavery and became a leading writer, orator, publisher, and one of the most influential advocates in the United States for abolitionism and the equality of all people;

Whereas Frederick Douglass was recognized for his accomplishments with a statue that was unveiled during a ceremony on June 19, 2013, in Emancipation Hall in the United States Capitol;

Whereas 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), signed into law on August 6, 1965, a milestone in providing

equal protections for African-Americans, including former slaves and the descendants of former slaves; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2015, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of “Juneteenth Independence Day” to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of “Juneteenth Independence Day” to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 202—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2015, AS “WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 202

Whereas Federal Government estimates show that more than 1 in 10 persons over age 60, or 6,000,000 individuals, are victims of elder abuse each year;

Whereas the vast majority of the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults in the United States goes unidentified and unreported;

Whereas only 1 in 44 cases of financial abuse of older adults is reported;

Whereas at least \$2,900,000,000 is taken from older adults each year due to financial abuse and exploitation;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas older adults who are abused are 3 times more likely to die earlier than older adults of the same age who are not abused;

Whereas ½ of all older adults with dementia will experience abuse;

Whereas providing unwanted medical treatment can be a form of elder abuse and exploitation;

Whereas public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of elder abuse by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention;

Whereas private individuals and public agencies must work together on the Federal, State, and local levels to combat increasing occurrences of abuse, neglect, and exploitation crime and violence against vulnerable older adults and vulnerable adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services; and

Whereas 2015 is the 10th anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2015, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, long-term care ombudsmen, social workers, health care providers, professional guardians, advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for the efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse; and

(3) encourages members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse, and by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2016. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2017. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2018. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2019. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2020. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2021. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2022. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2023. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2024. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2025. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2026. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2027. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2028. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2029. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2030. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2031. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2032. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2033. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2034. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2035. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2036. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2037. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2038. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2039. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2040. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MORAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2041. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2042. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2043. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2044. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2045. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed

by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2046. Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1927 submitted by Mr. ISAKSON and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2016. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement

SEC. 891. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the “Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 892. DESIGN-BUILD CONSTRUCTION PROCESS IMPROVEMENT.

(a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3309 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) CRITERIA FOR USE.—

“(1) CONTRACTS WITH A VALUE OF AT LEAST \$750,000.—Two-phase selection procedures shall be used for entering into a contract for the design and construction of a public building, facility, or work when a contracting officer determines that the contract has a value of \$750,000 or greater, as adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 1908 of this title.

“(2) CONTRACTS WITH A VALUE LESS THAN \$750,000.—For projects that a contracting officer determines have a value of less than \$750,000, the contracting officer shall make a determination whether two-phase selection procedures are appropriate for use for entering into a contract for the design and construction of a public building, facility, or work when—

“(A) the contracting officer anticipates that 3 or more offers will be received for the contract;

“(B) design work must be performed before an offeror can develop a price or cost proposal for the contract;

“(C) the offeror will incur a substantial amount of expense in preparing the offer; and

“(D) the contracting officer has considered information such as—

“(i) the extent to which the project requirements have been adequately defined;

“(ii) the time constraints for delivery of the project;

“(iii) the capability and experience of potential contractors;

“(iv) the suitability of the project for use of the two-phase selection procedures;

“(v) the capability of the agency to manage the two-phase selection process; and

“(vi) other criteria established by the agency.”; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “The maximum number specified in the solicitation shall not exceed 5 unless the agency determines with respect to” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “The maximum number specified in the solicitation shall not exceed 5 unless the head of the contracting activity, delegable to a level no lower than the senior contracting official within the contracting activity, approves the contracting officer’s justification that an individual solicitation must have greater than 5 finalists to be in the Federal Government’s interest. The contracting officer shall provide written documentation of how a maximum number of offerors exceeding 5 is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the two-phase selection process.”.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 30 of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, the head of each agency shall compile an annual report of each instance in which the agency awarded a design-build contract pursuant to section 3309 of title 41, United States Code, during the fiscal year ending in such calendar year, in which—

(i) more than 5 finalists were selected for phase-two requests for proposals; or

(ii) the contract was awarded without using two-phase selection procedures.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall facilitate public access to the reports, including by posting them on a publicly available Internet website. A notice of the availability of each report shall be published in the Federal Register.

(b) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2305a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) CRITERIA FOR USE.—

“(1) CONTRACTS WITH A VALUE OF AT LEAST \$750,000.—Two-phase selection procedures shall be used for entering into a contract for the design and construction of a public building, facility, or work when a contracting officer determines that the contract has a value of \$750,000 or greater, as adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 1908 of title 41, United States Code.

“(2) CONTRACTS WITH A VALUE LESS THAN \$750,000.—For projects that a contracting officer determines have a value of less than \$750,000, the contracting officer shall make a determination whether two-phase selection procedures are appropriate for use for entering into a contract for the design and construction of a public building, facility, or work when—

“(A) the contracting officer anticipates that 3 or more offers will be received for the contract;

“(B) design work must be performed before an offeror can develop a price or cost proposal for the contract;

“(C) the offeror will incur a substantial amount of expense in preparing the offer; and

“(D) the contracting officer has considered information such as—

“(i) the extent to which the project requirements have been adequately defined;

“(ii) the time constraints for delivery of the project;

“(iii) the capability and experience of potential contractors;

“(iv) the suitability of the project for use of the two-phase selection procedures;

“(v) the capability of the agency to manage the two-phase selection process; and

“(vi) other criteria established by the Department of Defense.”; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “The maximum number specified in the solicitation shall not exceed 5 unless the agency determines with respect to” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “The maximum number specified in the solicitation shall not exceed 5 unless the head of the contracting activity approves the contracting officer’s justification that an individual solicitation must have greater than 5 finalists to be in the Federal Government’s interest. The contracting officer shall provide written documentation of how a maximum number of offerors exceeding 5 is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the two-phase selection process.”.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 30 of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall compile an annual report of each instance in which the Department awarded a design-build contract pursuant to section 2305a of title 10, United States Code, during the fiscal year ending in such calendar year, in which—

(i) more than 5 finalists were selected for phase-two requests for proposals; or

(ii) the contract was awarded without using two-phase selection procedures.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall facilitate public access to the reports, including by posting them on a publicly available Internet website. A notice of the availability of each report shall be published in the Federal Register.

(c) GAO REPORTS.—

(1) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—Not later than 270 days after the deadline for the final reports required under subsection (f) of section 3309 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report analyzing the compliance of the various Federal agencies with the requirements of such section.

(2) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—Not later than 270 days after the deadline for the final reports required under subsection (f) of section 2305a of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report analyzing the compliance of the Department of Defense with the requirements of such section.

SEC. 893. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF A REVERSE AUCTION FOR THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, in consultation with the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for awarding contracts for construction and design services.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “design and construction services” means—

(A) site planning and landscape design;

(B) architectural and engineering services (including surveying and mapping defined in section 1101 of title 40, United States Code);

(C) interior design;

(D) performance of substantial construction work for facility, infrastructure, and environmental restoration projects;

(E) delivery and supply of construction materials to construction sites; and

(F) construction or substantial alteration of public buildings or public works; and

(2) the term “reverse auction” means, with respect to procurement by an agency—

(A) a real-time auction conducted through an electronic medium between a group of offerors who compete against each other by submitting bids for a contract or task order with the ability to submit revised bids throughout the course of the auction; and

(B) the award of the contract or task order to the offeror who submits the lowest bid.

SEC. 894. ASSURING PAYMENT PROTECTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS UNDER AN ALTERNATIVE TO A MILLER ACT PAYMENT BOND.

Chapter 93 of subtitle VI of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 9310. Individual sureties

“If another applicable law or regulation permits the acceptance of a bond from a surety that is not subject to sections 9305 and 9306 and is based on a pledge of assets by the surety, the assets pledged by such surety shall—

“(1) consist of eligible obligations described under section 9303(a); and

“(2) be submitted to the official of the Government required to approve or accept the bond, who shall deposit the assets with a depository described under section 9303(b).”;

and

(2) in the table of sections for such chapter, by adding at the end the following new item:

“9310. Individual sureties.”.

SEC. 895. SBA SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Section 411(c)(1) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(c)(1)) is amended by striking “70” and inserting “90”.

SA 2017. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 314. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE USE OF TUBULAR LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE (T-LED) LIGHTING IN THE UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA.

It is the sense of Congress that, given the significant cost savings and energy efficient benefits that have been realized from the installation of tubular light-emitting diode (T-LED) lighting aboard Navy vessels, and in order to provide the Department of Defense greater flexibility in lighting options which would reduce energy costs, the Department of Defense should modify the Universal Facilities Code to include tubular LED (T-LED) as an option within its specifications.

SA 2018. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016

for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 236. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TRANSITION.

Section 2194 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “business, law, technology transfer or transition,” after “mathematics,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

“(4) providing sabbatical opportunities for faculty and internship opportunities for students;” and

(C) in paragraphs (5) and (6), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking “research projects” both places it appears and inserting “projects, including research and technology transfer or transition projects”.

SA 2019. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. 540. RECEIPT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH PRIMARY MARINER DUTIES OF TRAINING THAT COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

“(b) MEMBERS WITH PRIMARY MARINER DUTIES.—(1) For purposes of the program under this section, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that members of the armed forces with primary mariner duties receive training that complies with national standards and requirements under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW).

“(2) The following shall comply with basic training standards under national requirements and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping:

“(A) The recruit training provided to each member of the armed forces.

“(B) The training provided to each member of the armed forces who is assigned to a vessel.

“(3) Under the program, each member of the armed forces who is assigned to a vessel of at least 100 gross tons (GRT) in a deck or engineering career field shall be provided the following:

“(A) A designated path to applicable credentials under the national requirements

and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping consistent with the responsibilities of the position to which assigned.

“(B) The opportunity, at Government expense, to attend credentialing programs that provide merchant mariner training not offered by the armed forces.

“(4)(A) For purposes of the program, the material specified in subparagraph (B) shall be submitted to the National Maritime Center of the Coast Guard for assessment of the compliance of such material with national requirements and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping.

“(B) The material specified in this subparagraph is as follows:

“(i) The course material of each unclassified course for members of the armed forces in marine navigation, leadership, and operation and maintenance.

“(ii) The unclassified qualifications for assignment for deck or engineering positions on waterborne vessels.

“(C) The National Maritime Center shall conduct assessments of material for purposes of this paragraph. Such assessments shall evaluate the suitability of material for the service at sea addressed by such material and without regard to the military pay grade of the intended beneficiaries of such material.

“(D) If material submitted to the National Maritime Center pursuant to this paragraph is determined not to comply as described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary offering such material to members of the armed forces shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the actions to be taken by such Secretary to bring such material into compliance.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary of a military department shall establish, for members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary, procedures as follows:

(A) Procedures by which members identify qualification gaps in training and proficiency assessments and complete training or assessments approved by the Coast Guard in addressing such gaps.

(B) Procedures by which members obtain service records of any service at sea.

(C) Procedures by which members may submit service records of service at sea and other military qualifications to the National Maritime Center for evaluation and issuance of a Merchant Marine Credential.

(D) Procedures by which members may obtain a medical certificate for use in applications for Merchant Marine Credentials.

(2) USE OF MILITARY DRUG TEST RESULTS IN MERCHANT MARINE CREDENTIAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretaries of the military departments shall jointly establish procedures by which the results of appropriate drug tests administered to members of the Armed Forces by the military departments may be used for purposes of applications for Merchant Marine Credentials.

SA 2020. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2815. EXEMPTION OF ARMY OFF-SITE USE AND OFF-SITE REMOVAL ONLY NON-MOBILE PROPERTIES FROM CERTAIN EXCESS PROPERTY DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Excess or unutilized or underutilized non-mobile property of the Army that is situated on non-excess land shall be exempt from the requirements of title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411 et seq.) upon a determination by the Secretary of the Army that—

(1) the property is not feasible to relocate;

(2) the property is located in an area to which the general public is denied access in the interest of national security; and

(3) the exemption would facilitate the efficient disposal of excess property or result in more efficient real property management.

(b) CONSULTATION.—Before making an initial determination under the authority provided under subsection (a), and periodically thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall consult with the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness on types of non-mobile properties that may be feasible for relocation and suitable to assist the homeless.

(b) SUNSET.—The authority under subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2017.

SA 2021. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1264. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE FULFILLMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Republic of Palau is comprised of 300 islands and covers roughly 177 square miles strategically located in the western Pacific Ocean between the Philippines and the United States territory of Guam.

(2) The United States and Palau have forged close security, economic, and cultural ties since the United States defeated the armed forces of Imperial Japan in Palau in 1944.

(3) The United States administered Palau as a District of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1947 to 1994.

(4) In 1994, the United States and Palau entered into a 50-year Compact of Free Association which provided for the independence of Palau and set forth the terms for close and mutually beneficial relations in security, economic, and governmental affairs.

(5) The security terms of the Compact grant the United States full authority and responsibility for the security and defense of Palau, including the right to foreclose the territory of Palau to any nation except the United States and to establish and use defense sites in Palau.

(6) The Compact entitles any citizen of Palau to volunteer for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, and the citizens of Palau volunteer for such service at a rate that exceeds that of any of the 50 States.

(7) In 2009, in accordance with section 432 of the Compact, the United States and Palau reviewed their overall relationship. In 2010, the two nations signed an agreement updating and extending several provisions of the Compact including an extension of United States financial and program assistance to Palau, and the establishment of increased immigration protections in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. However, the United States has not yet approved this agreement or provided the assistance called for in the agreement.

(8) On July 1, 2013 the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense submitted to the Senate proposed legislation to approve the agreement described in paragraph (7) and included an analysis of the budgetary impact of the proposed legislation. The letter transmitting the proposed legislation concluded that “[a]pproving the results of the Agreement is of import to the national security of the United States, to our bilateral relationship with Palau and to our broader strategic interest in the Asia-Pacific region”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) in order to fulfill the promises and commitment of the United States to our ally, the Republic of Palau, and reaffirm the special relationship between the United States and Palau, Congress and the President should place a top priority on the approval of and full funding for the agreement signed by the United States and Palau in 2010; and

(2) Congress and the President should immediately seek a mutually acceptable means of funding the legislation proposed to implement the agreement.

SA 2022. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 565. REPORTING ON ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE IN MILITARY FAMILIES AND HOMES.

(a) REPORTS TO FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM OFFICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following information shall be reported immediately to the Family Advocacy Program office at the military installation to which the member of the Armed Forces concerned is assigned:

(A) Credible information (which may include a reasonable belief), obtained by any individual within the chain of command of the member, that a child in the family or home of the member has suffered an incident of child abuse.

(B) Information, learned by a member of the Armed Forces engaged in a profession or activity described in subsection (b) of section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13031) for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, that gives reason to suspect that a child in the family or home of the member has suffered an incident of child abuse.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Navy when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) shall jointly prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

(3) CHILD ABUSE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “child abuse” has the meaning given that term in subsection (c) of section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

(b) REPORTS TO STATE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.—Section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (title II of Public Law 101-647; 104 Stat. 4806; 42 U.S.C. 13031) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and to the agency or agencies provided for in subsection (e), if applicable” before the period;

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e) REPORTERS AND RECIPIENT OF REPORT INVOLVING CHILDREN AND HOMES OF MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

“(1) RECIPIENTS OF REPORTS.—In the case of an incident described in subsection (a) involving a child in the family or home of member of the Armed Forces (regardless of whether the incident occurred on or off a military installation), the report required by subsection (a) shall be made to the appropriate child welfare services agency or agencies of the State in which the child resides. The Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Navy when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) shall jointly, in consultation with the chief executive officers of the States, designate the child welfare service agencies of the States that are appropriate recipients of reports pursuant to this subsection. Any report on an incident pursuant to this subsection is in addition to any other report on the incident pursuant to this section.

“(2) MAKERS OF REPORTS.—For purposes of the making of reports under this section pursuant to this subsection, the persons engaged in professions and activities described in subsection (b) shall include members of the Armed Forces who are engaged in such professions and activities for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.”.

SA 2023. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 884. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ENGAGE UNITED STATES MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO EQUIPPING THE AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Secretary to engage United States manufacturers and service providers in procurement opportunities related to equipping the Afghan National Security Forces.

SA 2024. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016

for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1257. REPORT ON EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ABILITY TO USE ENERGY SUPPLIES AS TOOLS OF COERCION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the energy security of NATO members, other European nations who share a border with the Russian Federation, and Moldova, as well as the ability of the Government of the Russian Federation to use energy supplies to undermine the security of these nations.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include assessments of the following issues:

(1) The extent of reliance by these nations on the Russian Federation for supplies of oil and natural gas.

(2) The ability of the Government of the Russian Federation to use these energy supplies as tools of coercion or intimidation to undermine the security of these nations.

(3) Whether such reliance by these nations creates vulnerabilities that negatively affect their security.

(4) The magnitude of those vulnerabilities.

(5) The impacts of those vulnerabilities on the national security and economic interests of the United States.

(6) Any other aspect that the Director determines to be relevant to these issues.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 2025. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 593. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS FOR ACTS OF EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the Secretary of the Army may award the Distinguished-Service Cross under

section 3742 of such title to Edward Halcomb who, while serving in Korea as a member of the United States Army in the grade of Private First Class in Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by acts of extraordinary heroism from August 20, 1950, to October 19, 1950, during the Korean War.

SA 2026. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . BONUSES FOR COST-CUTTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4512 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or identification of surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority” after “mismanagement”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or identification” after “disclosure”; and

(C) in the matter following paragraph (2), by inserting “or identification” after “disclosure”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) The Inspector General of an agency or other agency employee designated under subsection (b) shall refer to the Chief Financial Officer of the agency any potential surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority identified by an employee, along with any recommendations of the Inspector General or other agency employee.

“(d)(1) If the Chief Financial Officer of an agency determines that rescission of potential surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority identified by an employee would not hinder the effectiveness of the agency, except as provided in subsection (e), the head of the agency shall transfer the amount of the surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority from the applicable appropriations account to the general fund of the Treasury.

“(2) Any amounts transferred under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction, except that in the case of a fiscal year for which there is no Federal budget deficit, such amounts shall be used to reduce the Federal debt (in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

“(e) The head of an agency may retain not more than 10 percent of amounts to be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury under subsection (d) for the purpose of paying a cash award under subsection (a) to the employee who identified the surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority.

“(f)(1) The head of each agency shall submit to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management an annual report regarding—

“(A) each disclosure of possible fraud, waste, or mismanagement or identification of potentially surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority by an employee of the agency determined by the agency to have merit;

“(B) the total savings achieved through disclosures and identifications described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) the number and amount of cash awards by the agency under subsection (a).

“(2)(A) The head of each agency shall include the information described in paragraph (1) in each budget request of the agency sub-

mitted to the Office of Management and Budget as part of the preparation of the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

“(B) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Government Accountability Office an annual report on Federal cost saving and awards based on the reports submitted under subparagraph (A).

“(g) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall—

“(1) ensure that the cash award program of each agency complies with this section; and

“(2) submit to Congress an annual certification indicating whether the cash award program of each agency complies with this section.

“(h) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the operation of the cost savings and awards program under this section, including any recommendations for legislative changes.

“(i) In this section—

“(1) the term ‘effectiveness of an agency’ means the ability of an agency to fully carry out the mission of the agency, or of a program or activity of the agency, under the statutes establishing the mission, duties, and authorities of the agency, or under the program or activity; and

“(2) the term ‘unnecessary budget authority’ means budget authority that is not necessary to fully carry out the mission of an agency, or of a program or activity of the agency, under the statutes establishing the mission, duties, and authorities of the agency, or under the program or activity.”.

(b) OFFICERS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH AWARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4509 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 4509. Prohibition of cash award to certain officers

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term ‘agency’—

“(1) has the meaning given that term under section 551(1); and

“(2) includes an entity described in section 4501(1).

“(b) PROHIBITION.—An officer may not receive a cash award under this subchapter if the officer—

“(1) serves in a position at level I of the Executive Schedule;

“(2) is the head of an agency; or

“(3) is a commissioner, board member, or other voting member of an independent establishment.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 45 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 4509 and inserting the following:

“4509. Prohibition of cash award to certain officers.”.

SA 2027. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 573. REPORT ON CERTAIN APPLICATIONS FOR UPGRADE IN DISCHARGE STATUS FROM THE ARMED FORCES BASED ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the number of former members of the Armed Forces who applied for an upgrade in discharge status between September 3, 2009, and September 3, 2014, on the basis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. The report shall set forth the following:

(1) The number of applications in which the member concerned was wounded or injured in military service and received a discharge on other than honorable conditions.

(2) The number of applications for which relief was granted.

SA 2028. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1614. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND COST SAVINGS OF ALLOWING FOR COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS OF EXCESS BALLISTIC MISSILE SOLID ROCKET MOTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing—

(1) the feasibility of permitting excess ballistic missile solid rocket motors, including excess ballistic missile solid rocket motors from the Minotaur launch vehicle, to be made available for commercial applications, including an assessment of any policy or statutory restrictions that would prevent the use of such motors for commercial applications;

(2) the costs to the Federal Government of, and the cost savings for the Federal Government anticipated to result from, making such motors available for commercial applications;

(3) the effects of making such motors available for commercial applications on programs of the Federal Government;

(4) any implications of making such motors available for commercial applications for the international obligations of the United States;

(5) any implications for the United States commercial launch market and launch industrial base of making such motors available for commercial applications; and

(6) considerations for fair and equitable pricing of such motors if such motors were made available for commercial applications.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SA 2029. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 314. ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES.

Section 32906(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or (F)” after “described in subparagraph (E)”.

SA 2030. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2815. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COORDINATION OF HUNTING, FISHING, AND OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON MILITARY LAND.

It is the sense of Congress that, in situations where military lands are open to public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities, the Department of Defense should seek to ensure that coordination with State fish and wildlife managers, tribes, and local governments occurs sufficiently in advance of traditional hunting, fishing, and recreational use seasons to facilitate communication with hunting, fishing, and recreational user groups.

SA 2031. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COORDINATING MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISES WITH FISHERIES.

It is the Sense of Congress that the Office of the Secretary of Defense, or through its designee, should notify and consider comments from the National Marine Fisheries Service, affected state and tribal fisheries management agencies, and appropriate fish-

ing user groups as early as is reasonably practicable when scheduling and selecting a location for training exercises to minimize the impact on subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries and to ensure the long term health and availability of fish species and stocks

SA 2032. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1264. SENSE OF SENATE ON THE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Vietnam is an important emerging partner with which the United States increasingly shares strategic and economic interests, including improving bilateral and multilateral capacity for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, upholding the principles of freedom of the seas and peaceful resolution of international disputes, strengthening an open regional trading order, and maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) the Government of Vietnam has recently taken modest but encouraging steps to improve its human rights record, including signing the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly December 10, 1984, increasing registrations for places of worship, taking greater action to combat human trafficking, reviewing the Criminal Code, and continuing to conduct high-level engagement with the United States and international human rights non-governmental organizations;

(3) in light of growing challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and some steps by the Government of Vietnam to improve its human rights record, in 2014 the Department of State, in close consultation with the United States Senate, took steps to ease the United States prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam for maritime and coastal defense;

(4) easing the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam at this time, solely regarding platforms that facilitate the ability of the armed forces of Vietnam to operate more effectively on, above, and within its territorial waters and for coastal defense, would further United States national security interests, but steps beyond this to ease further the prohibition would require the Government of Vietnam to take significant additional and sustained steps to protect human rights, including releases of prisoners of conscience and legal reforms;

(5) the United States Government should continue to support civil society in Vietnam, including advocates for religious freedom, press freedom, and labor rights who seek to use peaceful means to build a strong and prosperous Vietnam that respects human rights and the rule of law; and

(6) the United States Government should continue to engage the Government of Vietnam in a high-level dialogue and specify what steps on human rights would be nec-

essary for the Government of Vietnam to take in order to continue strengthening the bilateral relationship.

SA 2033. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016”.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of State.

(3) **PEACEKEEPING CREDITS.**—The term “peacekeeping credits” means the amounts by which United States assessed peacekeeping contributions exceed actual expenditures, apportioned to the United States, of peacekeeping operations by the United Nations during a United Nations peacekeeping fiscal year.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—Basic Authorities and Activities

SEC. 5101. AMERICAN SPACES REVIEW.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) the full costs incurred by the Department to provide American Spaces, including—

(A) American Centers, American Corners, Binational Centers, Information Resource Centers, and Science Centers; and

(B) the total costs of all associated—

(i) employee salaries, including foreign service, American civilian, and locally employed staff;

(ii) programming expenses;

(iii) operating expenses;

(iv) contracting expenses; and

(v) security expenses;

(2) a breakdown of the total costs described in paragraph (1) by each space and type of space;

(3) the total fees collected for entry to, or the use of, American Spaces and related resources, including a breakdown by the type of fee for each space and type of space; and

(4) the total usage rates, including by type of service, for each space and type of space.

SEC. 5102. IDENTIFYING BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY OPPORTUNITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

State, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a detailed description of—

(1) the status of all ongoing investment treaty negotiations, including a strategy and timetable for concluding each such negotiation;

(2) a strategy to expand the investment treaty agenda, including through—

(A) launching new investment treaty negotiations with foreign partners that are currently capable of entering into such negotiations; and

(B) building the capacity of foreign partners to enter into such negotiations, including by encouraging the adoption of best practices with respect to investment; and

(3) an estimate of any resources that will be needed, including anticipated staffing levels—

(A) to conclude all ongoing negotiations described in paragraph (1);

(B) to launch new investment treaty negotiations, as described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(C) to build the capacity of foreign partners, as described in paragraph (2)(B).

SEC. 5103. REINSTATEMENT OF HONG KONG REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2020, the Secretary shall submit the report required under section 301 of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5731) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The report submitted under subsection (a) should be unclassified and made publicly available, including through the Department's public website.

(c) TREATMENT OF HONG KONG UNDER UNITED STATES LAW.—

(1) SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall certify to Congress whether Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is sufficiently autonomous to justify different treatment for its citizens from the treatment accorded to other citizens of the People's Republic of China in any new laws, agreements, treaties, or arrangements entered into between the United States and Hong Kong after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) FACTOR FOR CONSIDERATION.—In making a certification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary should consider the terms, obligations, and expectations expressed in the Joint Declaration with respect to Hong Kong.

(C) EXCEPTION.—A certification shall not be required under this subsection with respect to any new laws, agreements, treaties, or arrangements that support human rights, rule of law, or democracy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

(2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive the application of paragraph (1) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States; and

(B) on or before the date on which such waiver would take effect, submits a notice of, and justification for, the waiver to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5104. INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDINATOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate an existing

Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States persons who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism. For purposes of carrying out the duties described in paragraph (2), such officer shall have the title of "Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator".

(2) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall have the following duties:

(A) Coordinate and direct all activities of the Federal Government relating to each hostage situation described in paragraph (1) to ensure efforts to secure the release of all hostages in the hostage situation are properly resourced and correct lines of authority are established and maintained.

(B) Establish and direct a fusion cell consisting of appropriate personnel of the Federal Government with purview over each hostage situation described in paragraph (1).

(C) Develop a strategy to keep family members of hostages described in paragraph (1) informed of the status of such hostages and inform such family members of updates, procedures, and policies that do not compromise the national security of the United States.

(b) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator shall be limited to hostage cases outside the United States.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On a quarterly basis, the Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the members of Congress described in paragraph (2) a report that includes a summary of each hostage situation described in sub-section (a)(1) and efforts to secure the release of all hostages in such hostage situation.

(2) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DESCRIBED.—The members of Congress described in this subparagraph are, with respect to a United States person hostage covered by a report under paragraph (1), the Senators representing the State, and the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives representing the district, where a hostage described in subsection (a)(1) resides.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report under this subsection may be submitted in classified or unclassified form.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the Federal Government to negotiate with a state sponsor of terrorism or an organization that the Secretary has designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) or any other hostage-takers.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HOSTILE GROUP.—The term "hostile group" means—

(A) a group that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a));

(B) a group that is engaged in armed conflict with the United States; or

(C) any other group that the President determines to be a hostile group for purposes of this paragraph.

(2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term "state sponsor of terrorism"—

(A) means a country the government of which the Secretary has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or any other provision of law, to be a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism; and

(B) includes North Korea.

SEC. 5105. UNITED STATES-CHINA STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC DIALOGUE REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, and in consultation with other departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall—

(1) conduct a review of the United States-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (referred to in this section as the "Dialogue"); and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the findings of such review.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all commitments agreed to by the United States and China at each of the first 6 rounds of meetings;

(2) an assessment of the status of each commitment agreed to by the United States and China at each of the first 6 rounds of meetings, including a detailed description of—

(A) any actions that have been taken with respect to such commitments;

(B) any aspects of such commitments that remain unfulfilled; and

(C) any actions that remain necessary to fulfill any unfulfilled commitments described in subparagraph (B);

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Dialogue in achieving and fulfilling significant commitments on United States priorities in the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) the security situation in the East and South China Seas, including a peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in the region;

(B) denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;

(C) cybertheft of United States intellectual property;

(D) the treatment of political dissidents, media representatives, and ethnic and religious minorities;

(E) reciprocal treatment of United States journalists and academics in China, including issuance of visas;

(F) expanding investment and trade opportunities for United States businesses;

(G) repatriation of North Korean refugees from China to North Korea; and

(H) promoting and protecting rule of law and democratic institutions in Hong Kong; and

(4) recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Dialogue in achieving and fulfilling significant commitments on United States priorities described in paragraph (3), including consideration of the use of predetermined benchmarks for assessing whether the commitments achieved are significantly furthering such priorities.

SEC. 5106. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BURMA.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes in detail all known widespread or systematic civil or political rights violations, including violations that may constitute crimes against humanity against ethnic, racial, or religious minorities in Burma, including the Rohingya people; and

(2) provides recommendations for holding perpetrators of the violations described in paragraph (1) accountable for their actions.

SEC. 5107. COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for Diplomatic and Consular Programs, \$500,000 shall be made available to the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and

Labor, to be used in support of efforts by American and European Jewish and other civil society organizations, focusing on youth, to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of religious, ethnic, or racial intolerance in Europe.

SEC. 5108. BIOTECHNOLOGY GRANTS.

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 63. BIOTECHNOLOGY GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to support, through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, outreach, and public diplomacy activities, activities promoting the benefits of agricultural biotechnology, biofuels, science-based regulatory systems, and the application of such technologies for trade and development.

“(b) LIMITATION.—The total amount of grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) shall not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year.”.

SEC. 5109. DEFINITION OF “USE” IN PASSPORT AND VISA OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 1541 the following:

“SEC. 1540. DEFINITION OF ‘USE’ AND ‘USES’.

“In this chapter, the terms ‘use’ and ‘uses’ shall be given their plain meaning, which shall include use for identification purposes.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 75 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 1541 the following:

“1540. Definition of ‘use’ and ‘uses’.”.

SEC. 5110. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS.

Section 504 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1979 (22 U.S.C. 2656d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements for science and technology fellowship programs of the Department of State.

“(2) RECRUITMENT; STIPENDS.—Assistance authorized under paragraph (1) may be used—

“(A) to recruit fellows; and

“(B) to pay stipends, travel, and other appropriate expenses to fellows.

“(3) CLASSIFICATION OF STIPENDS.—Stipends paid under paragraph (2)(B) shall not be considered compensation for purposes of section 209 of title 18, United States Code.

“(4) LIMITATION.—The total amount of assistance provided under this subsection may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year.”.

SEC. 5111. NAME CHANGES.

(a) PUBLIC LAW 87-195.—Section 607(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2357(d)) is amended by striking “Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs” and inserting “Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science”.

(b) PUBLIC LAW 88-206.—Section 617(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7671p(a)) is amended by striking “Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs” and inserting “Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science”.

(c) PUBLIC LAW 93-126.—Section 9(a) of the Department of State Appropriations Authorization Act of 1973 (22 U.S.C. 2655a) is amended—

(1) by striking “Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs” and inserting “Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science”; and

(2) by striking “Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs” and inserting “Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science”.

(d) PUBLIC LAW 106-113.—Section 1112(a) of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2652c(a)) is amended by striking “Verification and Compliance.” and inserting “Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance (referred to in this section as the ‘Assistant Secretary’).”.

SEC. 5112. ANTI-PIRACY INFORMATION SHARING.

The Secretary is authorized to provide for the participation of the United States in the Information Sharing Centre located in Singapore, as established by the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, done at Singapore November 11, 2004.

SEC. 5113. REPORT REFORM.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—Section 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347h) is repealed.

(b) ROUGH DIAMONDS ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 12 of the Clean Diamond Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 3911) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. REPORTS.

“For each country that, during the preceding 12-month period, exported rough diamonds to the United States, the exportation of which was not controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and if the failure to do so has significantly increased the likelihood that those diamonds not so controlled are being imported into the United States, the President shall submit a semi-annual report to Congress that explains what actions have been taken by the United States or such country since the previous report to ensure that diamonds, the exportation of which was not controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, are not being imported from that country into the United States. A country shall be included in the report required under this section until the country is controlling the importation and exportation of rough diamonds through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.”.

SEC. 5114. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and Japan is a cornerstone of peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

(2) Prime Minister Shiuzo Abe’s visit to the United States in April 2015 and historic address to a Joint Session of Congress symbolized the strength and importance of ties between the United States and Japan;

(3) in 2015, which marks 70 years since the end of World War II, the United States and Japan continue to strengthen the alliance and work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region and the world;

(4) the Governments and people of the United States and Japan share values, interests, and capabilities that have helped to build a strong rules-based international order, based on a commitment to rules, norms and institutions;

(5) the revised Guidelines for United States-Japan Defense Cooperation and Japan’s policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” will reinforce deterrence, update the roles and missions of the United States and Japan, enable Japan to expand its contributions to regional and global security, and allow the United States Government and the

Government of Japan to enhance cooperation on security issues in the region and beyond;

(6) the United States remain resolute in its commitments under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan;

(7) although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

(8) the United States Government reaffirms that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

(9) the United States Government and the Government of Japan continue to work together on common security interests, including to confront the threat posed by the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

(10) the United States Government and the Government of Japan remain committed to ensuring maritime security and respect for international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight; and

(11) the United States Government and the Government of Japan continue to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the status quo, including in the East and South China Seas.

SEC. 5115. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has an upgraded, strategic-plus relationship with India based on regional cooperation, space science cooperation, and defense cooperation.

(2) The defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India is strengthened by the common commitment of both countries to democracy.

(3) The United States and the Republic of India share a common and long-standing commitment to civilian control of the military.

(4) The United States and the Republic of India have increasingly worked together on defense cooperation across a range of activities, exercises, initiatives, and research.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) continue to expand defense cooperation with the Republic of India;

(2) welcome the role of the Republic of India in providing security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) work cooperatively with the Republic of India on matters relating to our common defense;

(4) vigorously support the implementation of the United States-India Defense Framework Agreement; and

(5) support the India Defense Trade and Technology Initiative.

SEC. 5116. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has served as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world;

(2) the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to strengthen and adapt the bilateral, regional, and global scope of the comprehensive strategic alliance between the 2 nations, to serve as a linchpin of peace

and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing the shared values of democracy, human rights, free and open markets, and the rule of law, as reaffirmed in the May 2013 "Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America";

(3) the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to broaden and deepen the alliance by strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula, enhancing mutual security based on the Republic of Korea-United States Mutual Defense Treaty, and promoting cooperation for regional and global security in the 21st century;

(4) the United States and the Republic of Korea share deep concerns that the nuclear, cyber, and ballistic missiles programs of North Korea and its repeated provocations pose grave threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia and recognize that both nations are determined to achieve the peaceful denuclearization of North Korea and remain fully committed to continuing close cooperation on the full range of issues related to North Korea;

(5) the United States and the Republic of Korea are particularly concerned that the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of North Korea, including North Korean efforts to miniaturize their nuclear technology and improve the mobility of their ballistic missiles, have gathered significant momentum and are poised to expand in the coming years;

(6) the Republic of Korea has made progress in enhancing future warfighting and interoperability capabilities by taking steps toward procuring Patriot Advanced Capability missiles, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft, and RQ-4 Global Hawk Surveillance Aircraft;

(7) the United States supports the vision of a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, free from the fear of war, and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and free market principles, as articulated in President Park's address in Dresden, Germany; and

(8) the United States and the Republic of Korea share the future interests of both nations in securing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

SEC. 5117. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States policy toward Taiwan is based upon the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), which was enacted in 1979, and the Six Assurances given by President Ronald Reagan in 1982;

(2) provision of defensive weapons to Taiwan should continue as mandated in the Taiwan Relations Act; and

(3) enhanced trade relations with Taiwan should be pursued to mutually benefit the citizens of both countries.

SEC. 5118. REPORT ON POLITICAL FREEDOM IN VENEZUELA.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an assessment of the support provided by the United States to the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy (as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States, done at Lima September 11, 2001);

(2) an assessment of work carried out by the United States, in cooperation with the other member states of the Organization of

American States and countries of the European Union, to ensure—

(A) the peaceful resolution of the current political situation in Venezuela; and

(B) the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors;

(3) a list of the government and security officials in Venezuela who—

(A) are responsible for, or complicit in, the use of force in relation to antigovernment protests and similar acts of violence; and

(B) have had their financial assets in the United States frozen or been placed on a visa ban by the United States; and

(4) an assessment of United States support for the development of democratic political processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 5119. STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE EVENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN.

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, other members of the National Security Council, and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government, develop a strategy for the United States for the Middle East in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy shall include the following:

(1) Efforts to counter Iranian-sponsored terrorism in Middle East region.

(2) Efforts to reassure United States allies and partners in Middle East.

(3) Efforts to address the potential for a conventional or nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

(c) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after entering into a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran, the Secretary shall submit the strategy developed under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5120. DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE POLICY STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall produce a comprehensive strategy, with a classified annex if necessary, relating to United States international policy with regard to cyberspace.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required in subsection (a) shall include:

(1) A review of actions and activities undertaken by the Secretary of State to date to support the goal of the President's International Strategy for Cyberspace, released in May 2011, to "work internationally to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable information and communications infrastructure that supports international trade and commerce, strengthens international security, and fosters free expression and innovation";

(2) A plan of action to guide the Secretary's diplomacy with regard to nation-states, including conducting bilateral and multilateral activities to develop the norms of responsible international behavior in cyberspace, and status review of existing discussions in multilateral fora to obtain agreements on international norms in cyberspace.

(3) A review of the alternative concepts with regard to international norms in cyberspace offered by other prominent nation-state actors, including China, Russia, Brazil, and India.

(4) A detailed description of threats to United States national security in cyber-

space from other nation-states, state-sponsored actors and private actors, to United States Federal and private sector infrastructure, United States intellectual property, and the privacy of United States citizens.

(5) A review of policy tools available to the President of United States to deter nation-states, state-sponsored actors, and private actors, including, but not limited to, those outlined in Executive Order 13694, released on April 1, 2015.

(6) A review of resources required by the Secretary, including the Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues, to conduct activities to build responsible norms of international cyber behavior.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States private sector and United States nongovernmental organizations with recognized credentials and expertise in foreign policy, national security, and cybersecurity.

(d) **RELEASE.**—The Secretary shall publicly release the strategy required in subsection (a) and brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives upon its release, including on the classified annex, should the strategy include such an annex.

SEC. 5121. WAIVER OF FEES FOR RENEWAL OF IMMIGRANT VISA FOR ADOPTED CHILD IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

Section 221(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) **PERIOD OF VALIDITY; RENEWAL OR REPLACEMENT.**—

“(1) **IMMIGRANT VISAS.**—An immigrant visa shall be valid for such period, not exceeding 6 months, as shall be by regulations prescribed, except that any visa issued to a child lawfully adopted by a United States citizen and spouse while such citizen is serving abroad in the United States Armed Forces, or is employed abroad by the United States Government, or is temporarily abroad on business, shall be valid until such time, for a period not to exceed 3 years, as the adoptive citizen parent returns to the United States in due course of his service, employment, or business.

“(2) **NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.**—A non-immigrant visa shall be valid for such periods as shall be prescribed by regulations. In prescribing the period of validity of a non-immigrant visa in the case of nationals of any foreign country who are eligible for such visas, the Secretary of State shall, insofar as practicable, accord to such nationals the same treatment upon a reciprocal basis as such foreign country accords to nationals of the United States who are within a similar class, except that in the case of aliens who are nationals of a foreign country and who either are granted refugee status and firmly resettled in another foreign country or are granted permanent residence and residing in another foreign country, the Secretary of State may prescribe the period of validity of such a visa based upon the treatment granted by that other foreign country to alien refugees and permanent residents, respectively, in the United States.

“(3) **VISA REPLACEMENT.**—An immigrant visa may be replaced under the original number during the fiscal year in which the original visa was issued for an immigrant who establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer that the immigrant—

“(A) was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity because of reasons beyond his control and for which he was not responsible;

“(B) is found by a consular officer to be eligible for an immigrant visa; and

“(C) pays again the statutory fees for an application and an immigrant visa.

“(4) FEE WAIVER.—If an immigrant visa was issued, on or after March 27, 2013, for a child who has been lawfully adopted, or who is coming to the United States to be adopted, by a United States citizen, any statutory immigrant visa fees relating to a renewal or replacement of such visa may be waived or, if already paid, may be refunded upon request, subject to such criteria as the Secretary of State may prescribe, if—

“(A) the immigrant child was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity as a direct result of extraordinary circumstances, including the denial of an exit permit; and

“(B) if such inability was attributable to factors beyond the control of the adopting parent or parents and of the immigrant.”.

SEC. 5122. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ANTI-ISRAEL AND ANTI-SEMITIC INCITEMENT WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, commonly referred to as Oslo II, specifically details that Israel and the Palestinian Authority shall “abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression, shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) expresses support and admiration for individuals and organizations working to encourage cooperation between Israeli Jews and Palestinians, including—

(A) Professor Mohammed Dajani Daoudi, who took students from al-Quds University in Jerusalem to visit Auschwitz in March 2014 only to return to death threats by fellow Palestinians and expulsion from his teacher's union;

(B) the Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information, the only joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think-tank,

(C) United Hatzalah, a nonprofit, fully volunteer Emergency Medical Services organization that, mobilizing volunteers who are religious or secular Jews, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, provides EMS services to all people in Israel regardless of race, religion, or national origin; and

(D) Breaking the Impasse, an apolitical initiative of Palestinian and Israeli business and civil society leaders who advocate for a two-state solution and an urgent diplomatic solution to the conflict;

(2) reiterates strong condemnation of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in the Palestinian Authority as antithetical to the stated desire to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement; and

(3) urges President Abbas and Palestinian Authority officials to discontinue all official incitement that runs contrary to the determination to put an end to decades of confrontation.

SEC. 5123. SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND INVIOABILITY OF POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES IN LIGHT OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE.

It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) supports the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of post-Soviet countries within their internationally recognized borders;

(2) expresses deep concern over increasingly aggressive actions by the Russian Federation;

(3) is committed to providing sufficient funding for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs of the Department of State to

address subversive and destabilizing activities by the Russian Federation within post-Soviet countries;

(4) supports robust engagement between the United States and post-Soviet countries through—

(A) the promotion of strengthened people-to-people ties, including through educational and cultural exchange programs;

(B) anticorruption assistance;

(C) public diplomacy;

(D) economic diplomacy; and

(E) other democratic reform efforts;

(5) encourages the President to further enhance nondefense cooperation and diplomatic engagement with post-Soviet countries;

(6) condemns the subversive and destabilizing activities undertaken by the Russian Federation within post-Soviet countries;

(7) encourages enhanced cooperation between the United States and the European Union to promote greater Euro-Atlantic integration, including through—

(A) the enlargement of the European Union; and

(B) the Open Door policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(8) urges continued cooperation between the United States and the European Union to maintain sanctions against the Russian Federation until the Government of Russia has—

(A) fully implemented all provisions of the Minsk agreements, done at Minsk September 5, 2014 and February 12, 2015; and

(B) demonstrated respect for the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine;

(9) calls on the member states of the European Union to extend the current sanctions regime against the Russian Federation; and

(10) urges the consideration of additional sanctions if the Russian Federation continue to engage in subversive and destabilizing activities within post-Soviet countries.

SEC. 5124. RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA REPORT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Russian Federation is waging a propaganda war against the United States and our allies; and

(2) a successful strategy must be implemented to counter the threat posed by Russian propaganda.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually for the following 3 years, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal officials, shall submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that contains a detailed analysis of—

(1) the recent use of propaganda by the Government of Russia, including—

(A) the forms of propaganda used, including types of media and programming;

(B) the principal countries and regions targeted by Russian propaganda; and

(C) the impact of Russian propaganda on such targets;

(2) the response by United States allies, particularly European allies, to counter the threat of Russian propaganda;

(3) the response by the United States to the threat of Russian propaganda;

(4) the extent of the effectiveness of programs currently in use to counter Russian propaganda;

(5) a strategy for improving the effectiveness of such programs;

(6) any additional authority needed to counter the threat of Russian propaganda; and

(7) the additional funding needed to successfully implement the strategy referred to in paragraph (5).

SEC. 5125. APPROVAL OF EXPORT LICENCES AND LETTERS OF REQUEST TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—

(A) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the specified congressional committees a detailed list of all export license applications, including requests for marketing licenses, for the sale of defense articles and defense services to Ukraine.

(B) CONTENTS.—The list submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the date on which the application or request was first submitted;

(ii) the current status of each application or request; and

(iii) the estimated timeline for adjudication of such applications or requests.

(C) PRIORITY.—The Secretary should give priority to processing the applications and requests included on the list submitted under subparagraph (A).

(2) LETTERS OF REQUEST.—The Secretary shall submit to the specified congressional committees a detailed list of all pending Letters of Request for Foreign Military Sales to Ukraine, including—

(A) the date on which each such letter was first submitted;

(B) the current status of each such letter; and

(C) the estimated timeline for the adjudication of each such letter.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit a report to the specified congressional committees that describes the status of the applications, requests for marketing licenses, and Letters of Request described in subsection (a).

(2) TERMINATION DATE.—The date set forth in this paragraph is the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the President certifies to Congress that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Government of Ukraine has been restored; or

(B) the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle B—Additional Matters

SEC. 5131. ATROCITIES PREVENTION BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized to establish, within the Executive Office of the President, an Interagency Atrocities Prevention Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Board is authorized—

(1) to coordinate an interagency approach to preventing mass atrocities;

(2) to propose policies to integrate the early warning systems of national security agencies, including intelligence agencies, with respect to incidents of mass atrocities and to coordinate the policy response to such incidents;

(3) to identify relevant Federal agencies, which shall track and report on Federal funding spent on atrocity prevention efforts;

(4) to oversee the development and implementation of comprehensive atrocities prevention and response strategies;

(5) to identify available resources and policy options necessary to prevent the emergence or escalation of mass atrocities;

(6) to identify and propose policies to close gaps in expertise, readiness, and planning for atrocities prevention and early action across Federal agencies, including training for employees at relevant Federal agencies;

(7) to engage relevant civil society and nongovernmental organization stakeholders in regular consultations to solicit current information on countries of concern; and

(8) to conduct an atrocity-specific expert review of policy and programming of all countries at risk for mass atrocities.

(C) LEADERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be headed by a Senior Director, who—

(A) shall be appointed by the President; and

(B) shall report to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Senior Director is authorized to have primary responsibility for—

(A) recommending and, if adopted, promoting United States Government policies on preventing mass atrocities; and

(B) carrying out the duties described in subsection (b).

(d) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of—

(1) representatives from—

(A) the Department of State;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) the Department of Defense;

(D) the Department of Justice;

(E) the Department of the Treasury;

(F) the Department of Homeland Security;

(G) the Central Intelligence Agency;

(H) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(I) the United States Mission to the United Nations; and

(J) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(2) such other individuals as the President may appoint.

(e) COORDINATION.—The Board is authorized to coordinate with relevant officials and government agencies responsible for foreign policy with respect to particular regions and countries to help provide a cohesive, whole of government response and policy direction to emerging and ongoing atrocities.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report, with an unclassified annex, which shall include—

(1) an update on the interagency review mandated by Presidential Study Directive 10 that includes—

(A) an evaluation of current mechanisms and capacities for government-wide detection, early warning, information-sharing, contingency planning, and coordination of efforts to prevent and respond to situations of genocide, mass atrocities, and other mass violence, including such mass gender- and ethnicity-based violence;

(B) an assessment of the funding spent by relevant Federal agencies on atrocity prevention activities;

(C) current annual global assessments of sources of conflict and instability;

(D) recommendations to further strengthen United States capabilities to improve the mechanisms described in subparagraph (A); and

(E) evaluations of the various approaches to enhancing capabilities and improving the mechanisms described in subparagraph (A);

(2) recommendations to ensure burden sharing by—

(A) improving international cooperation and coordination to enhance multilateral mechanisms for preventing genocide and atrocities, including improving the role of regional and international organizations in conflict prevention, mitigation, and response; and

(B) strengthening regional organizations; and

(3) the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the interagency review described in paragraph (1).

(g) MATERIALS AND BRIEFINGS.—The Senior Director and the members of the Board shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives at least annually.

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on June 30, 2017.

SEC. 5132. UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT IN THE INDO-PACIFIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a comprehensive assessment to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific, including with partners across the Indo-Pacific region.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of current and emerging United States diplomatic, national security, and economic interests and trends in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) a review of resources devoted to United States diplomatic, economic, trade, development, and cultural engagement and plans in the Indo-Pacific region during the 10-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) options for the realignment of United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific region to respond to new opportunities and challenges, including linking United States strategy more broadly across the Indo-Pacific region; and

(4) the views of noted policy leaders and regional experts, including leaders and experts in the Indo-Pacific region, on the opportunities and challenges to United States engagement across the Indo-Pacific region.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, as appropriate, shall consult with—

(1) other United States Government agencies; and

(2) independent, nongovernmental organizations with recognized credentials and expertise in foreign policy, national security, and international economic affairs that have access to policy experts throughout the United States and from the Indo-Pacific region.

SEC. 5133. JOINT ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION AND TO FOSTER INCLUSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to enter into a bilateral joint action plan with the European Union to combat prejudice and discrimination and to foster inclusion (referred to in this section as the “Joint Action Plan”).

(b) CONTENTS OF JOINT ACTION PLAN.—The Joint Action Plan shall—

(1) address anti-Semitism;

(2) address prejudice against, and the discriminatory treatment of, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities;

(3) promote equality of opportunity for access to quality education and economic opportunities; and

(4) promote equal treatment by the justice system.

(c) COOPERATION.—In developing the Joint Action Plan, the Secretary shall—

(1) leverage interagency policy expertise in the United States and Europe;

(2) develop partnerships among civil society and private sector stakeholders; and

(3) draw upon the extensive work done by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to address anti-Semitism.

(d) INITIATIVES.—The Joint Action Plan may include initiatives for promoting equality of opportunity and methods of eliminating prejudice and discrimination based on religion, race, or ethnicity, including—

(1) training programs;

(2) regional initiatives to promote equality of opportunity through the strengthening of democratic institutions;

(3) public-private partnerships with enterprises and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) exchanges of technical experts;

(5) scholarships and fellowships; and

(6) political empowerment and leadership initiatives.

(e) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall task an existing Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Joint Action Plan with his or her European Union counterpart.

(f) LEGAL EFFECTS.—Any Joint Action Plan adopted under this section—

(1) shall not be legally binding; and

(2) shall create no rights or obligations under international or United States law.

(g) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize—

(1) the Secretary to enter into a legally binding agreement or Joint Action Plan with the European Union; or

(2) any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives described in this section.

(h) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a progress report on the development of the Joint Action Plan to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5134. REPORT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEBT SUSTAINABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury, shall submit a report containing an assessment of the current external debt environment for developing countries and identifying particular near-term risks to debt sustainability to—

(1) the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall assess—

(1) the impact of new lending relationships, including the role of new creditors;

(2) the adequacy of current multilateral surveillance mechanisms in guarding against debt distress in developing countries;

(3) the ability of developing countries to borrow on global capital markets; and

(4) the interaction between debt sustainability objectives of the developing world and the development-oriented investment agenda of the G-20, including the impact of—

(A) current debt sustainability objectives on investment in developing countries; and

(B) investment objectives proposed by the G-20 on the ability to meet the goals of—

(i) the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative; and

(ii) the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

SEC. 5135. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.

(a) **GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter for 6 years, the Secretary of State shall develop or update a United States global strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees and made publicly available on the Internet.

(b) **INITIAL STRATEGY.**—For the purposes of this section, the “United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally”, issued in August 2012, shall be deemed to fulfill the initial requirement of subsection (a).

(c) **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with—

- (1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;
- (2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons; and
- (3) representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations with demonstrated experience in addressing violence against women and girls or promoting gender equality internationally.

(d) **PRIORITY COUNTRY SELECTION.**—To further the objectives of the strategy described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall identify no less than 4 eligible low-income and lower-middle income countries with significant levels of violence against women and girls, including within displaced communities, that have the governmental or non-governmental organizational capacity to manage and implement gender-based violence prevention and response program activities and should, when possible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally diverse from one another.

(e) **COUNTRY PLANS.**—In each country identified under subsection (d) the Secretary shall develop comprehensive, multisectoral, and holistic individual country plans designed to address and respond to violence against women and girls that include—

(1) an assessment and description of the current or potential capacity of the government of each identified country and civil society organizations in each such identified country to address and respond to violence against women and girls;

(2) an identification of coordination mechanisms with Federal agencies that—

(A) have existing programs relevant to the strategy;

(B) will be involved in new program activities; and

(C) are engaged in broader United States strategies around development;

(3) a description of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms established for each identified country, and their intended use in assessing overall progress in prevention and response;

(4) a projection of the general levels of resources needed to achieve the stated objectives in each identified country, including an accounting of—

(A) activities and funding already expended by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, other Federal agencies, donor country governments, and multilateral institutions; and

(B) leveraged private sector resources; and

(5) strategies, as appropriate, designed to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, internally displaced, refugee, or religious or ethnic minority women and girls.

(f) **REPORT ON PRIORITY COUNTRY SELECTION AND COUNTRY PLANS.**—Not more than 90 days after selection of the priority countries required under subsection (d), and annually

thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the priority country selection process, the development of specific country plans, and include an overview of all programming and specific activities being undertaken, the budget resources requested, and the specific activities to be supported by each Executive agency under the strategy if such resources are provided.

(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives of this section.

SEC. 5136. INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than June 1 of each year, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as the “USAID Administrator”), the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of appropriate intelligence agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a Country Report on Corruption Practices, with a classified annex, which shall include information about countries for which a corruption analysis was conducted under subsection (b).

(b) **CORRUPTION ANALYSIS ELEMENTS.**—The corruption analysis conducted under this subsection should include, among other elements—

(1) an analysis of individuals and associations that comprise corruption networks in the country, including, as applicable—

- (A) government officials;
- (B) private sector actors;
- (C) criminals; and
- (D) members of illegal armed groups;

(2) the identification of the state functions that have been captured by corrupt networks in the country, including, as applicable functions of—

- (A) the judicial branch;
- (B) the taxing authority;
- (C) the central bank; and
- (D) specific military or police units;

(3) the identification of—

(A) the key economic activities, whether licit or illicit, which are dominated by members of the corrupt network; and

(B) other revenue streams that enrich such members; and

(4) the identification of enablers of corrupt practices, within the country and outside the country.

(c) **PUBLICATION AND BRIEFINGS.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish the Country Report on Corruption and Accountability submitted under subsection (a) on the website of the Department; and

(2) brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on the information contained in the report published under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5137. QUADRENNIAL DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **QUADRENNIAL REVIEWS REQUIRED.**—Under the direction of the President, the Secretary of State shall every 4 years, during a year following a year evenly divisible by 4, conduct a review of United States diplomacy and development (to be known as a “quadrennial diplomacy and development review”).

(2) **SCOPE OF REVIEWS.**—Each quadrennial diplomacy and development review shall be a comprehensive examination of the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States for the next 4-year period until a subsequent review is due under paragraph (1). The review shall include—

(A) recommendations regarding the long-term diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States;

(B) priorities of the United States for diplomacy and development; and

(C) guidance on the related programs, assets, capabilities, budget, policies, and authorities of the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development.

(3) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting each quadrennial diplomacy and development review, after consultation with Department of State and United States Agency for International Development officials, the Secretary of State should consult with—

(A) the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, including the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Director of National Intelligence;

(B) any other Federal agency that provides foreign assistance, including at a minimum the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and, as appropriate, other members of Congress; and

(D) other relevant governmental and non-governmental entities, including private sector representatives, academics, and other policy experts.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REVIEW.**—Each quadrennial diplomacy and development review shall—

(1) delineate, as appropriate, the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States, consistent with appropriate national, Department of State, and United States Agency for International Development strategies, strategic plans, and relevant presidential directives, including the national security strategy prescribed pursuant to section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404a);

(2) outline and prioritize the full range of critical national diplomacy and development areas, capabilities, and resources, including those implemented across agencies, and address the full range of challenges confronting the United States in this regard;

(3) describe the interagency cooperation, and preparedness of relevant Federal assets, and the infrastructure, budget plan, and other elements of the diplomacy and development policies and programs of the United States required to execute successfully the full range of mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(4) describe the roles of international organizations and multilateral institutions in advancing United States diplomatic and development objectives, including the mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing development policies and programs with partner countries and among donors;

(5) identify the budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully execute the full range of mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(6) include an assessment of the organizational alignment of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development with the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework referred to in paragraph (1) and the diplomacy and development mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(7) review and assess the effectiveness of the management mechanisms of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development for executing the strategic priorities outlined in the quadrennial diplomacy and development review, including the extent to which such effectiveness has been enhanced since the previous report; and

(8) the relationship between the requirements of the quadrennial diplomacy and development review and the acquisition strategy and expenditure plan within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY BOARD REVIEW.—The Secretary of State should apprise the Foreign Affairs Policy Board on an ongoing basis of the work undertaken in the conduct of the quadrennial diplomacy and development review.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives under this section.

SEC. 5138. DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States—

(A) values governance, security, and the rule of law in Mexico and Central America; and

(B) has reemphasized its commitment to this region following the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children from these countries across the international border between the United States and Mexico in 2014.

(2) Individuals migrating from Central America to the United States face great peril during their journey. Many go missing along the way and are often never heard from again.

(b) REPORT OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in close consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) the number of cases of enforced disappearances in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador;

(2) an assessment of causes for the disappearances described in paragraph (1);

(3) the primary individuals and groups responsible for such disappearances; and

(4) the official government response in those countries to account for such disappeared persons.

SEC. 5139. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit an unclassified report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the implementation by the Government of Bahrain of the recommendations contained in the 2011 Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (referred to in this section as the “Bahrain Report”).

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the specific steps taken by the Government of Bahrain to implement each of the 26 recommendations contained in the Bahrain Report;

(2) an assessment of whether the Government of Bahrain has “fully complied with”, “partially implemented”, or “not meaningfully implemented” each recommendation referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) an assessment of the impact of the findings in the Bahrain Report for the United States security posture in the Arab Gulf and the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command.

SEC. 5140. REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI AND WHETHER RECENT ELECTIONS IN HAITI MEET INTERNATIONAL ELECTION STANDARDS.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 5(a) of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2022”.

(b) REPORT.—Section 5(b) of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(14) a determination of whether recent Haitian elections are free, fair and responsive to the people of Haiti; and

“(15) a description of any attempts to disqualify candidates for political officers in Haiti for political reasons.”.

SEC. 5141. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this section referred to as the “DPRK”) tested nuclear weapons on 3 separate occasions, in October 2006, in May 2009, and in February 2013.

(2) Nuclear experts have reported that the DPRK may currently have as many as 20 nuclear warheads and has the potential to possess as many as 100 warheads within the next 5 years.

(3) According to the 2014 Department of Defense report, “Military and Security Developments Involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea” (in this subsection referred to as the “2014 DoD report”), the DPRK has proliferated nuclear technology to Libya via the proliferation network of Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan.

(4) According to the 2014 DoD report, “North Korea also provided Syria with nuclear reactor technology until 2007.”.

(5) On September 6, 2007, as part of “Operation Orchard”, the Israeli Air Force destroyed the suspected nuclear facility in Syria.

(6) According to the 2014 DoD report, “North Korea has exported conventional and ballistic missile-related equipment, components, materials, and technical assistance to countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.”.

(7) On November 29, 1987, DPRK agents planted explosive devices onboard Korean Air flight 858, which killed all 115 passengers and crew on board.

(8) On March 26, 2010, the DPRK fired upon and sank the South Korean warship Cheonan, killing 46 of her crew.

(9) On November 23, 2010, the DPRK shelled South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island, killing 4 South Korean citizens.

(10) On February 7, 2014, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in DPRK (in this subsection referred to as the “Commission of Inquiry”) released a report detailing the atrocious human rights record of the DPRK.

(11) Dr. Michael Kirby, Chair of the Commission of Inquiry, stated on March 17, 2014, “The Commission of Inquiry has found systematic, widespread, and grave human rights violations occurring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It has also found a disturbing array of crimes against humanity. These crimes are committed against inmates of political and other prison camps; against starving populations; against religious believers; against persons who try to flee the country—including those forcibly repatriated by China.”.

(12) Dr. Michael Kirby also stated, “These crimes arise from policies established at the highest level of the State. They have been committed, and continue to take place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their heart remain in place. The gravity, scale, duration, and nature of the unspeakable atrocities committed in the country reveal a totalitarian State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world.”.

(13) The Commission of Inquiry also notes, “Since 1950, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has engaged in the systematic abduction, denial of repatriation, and subsequent enforced disappearance of persons from other countries on a large scale and as a matter of State policy. Well over 200,000 persons, including children, who were brought from other countries to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may have become victims of enforced disappearance,” and states that the DPRK has failed to account or address this injustice in any way.

(14) According to reports and analysis from organizations such as the International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Labor, the Korea Policy Research Center, NK Watch, the Asian Institute for Policy Studies, the Center for International and Strategic Studies, and the George W. Bush Institute, there may currently be as many as 100,000 North Korean overseas laborers in various nations around the world.

(15) Such forced North Korean laborers are often subjected to harsh working conditions under the direct supervision of DPRK officials, and their salaries contribute to anywhere from \$150,000,000 to \$230,000,000 a year to the DPRK state coffers.

(16) According to the Director of National Intelligence's 2015 Worldwide Threat Assessment, “North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs pose a serious threat to the United States and to the security environment in East Asia.”.

(17) The Worldwide Threat Assessment states, “North Korea has also expanded the size and sophistication of its ballistic missile forces, ranging from close-range ballistic missiles to ICBMs, while continuing to conduct test launches. In 2014, North Korea launched an unprecedented number of ballistic missiles.”.

(18) On December 19, 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation declared that the DPRK was responsible for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures conducted on November 24, 2014.

(19) From 1988 to 2008, the DPRK was designated by the United States Government as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(20) The DPRK is currently in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), and 2094 (2013).

(21) The DPRK repeatedly violated agreements with the United States and the other so-called Six-Party Talks partners (the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China) designed to halt its nuclear weapons program, while receiving significant concessions, including fuel, oil, and food aid.

(22) The Six-Party Talks have not been held since December 2008.

(23) On May 9, 2015, the DPRK claimed that it has test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the DPRK represents a serious threat to the national security of the United States and United States allies in East Asia and to international peace and stability, and grossly violates the human rights of its own people;

(2) the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury should impose additional sanctions against the DPRK, including targeting its financial assets around the world, specific designations relating to human rights abuses, and a redesignation of the DPRK as a state sponsor of terror; and

(3) the President should not resume the negotiations with the DPRK, either bilaterally or as part of the Six-Party Talks, without strict preconditions, including that the DPRK—

(A) adhere to its denuclearization commitments outlined in the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks;

(B) commit to halting its ballistic missile programs and its proliferation activities;

(C) cease military provocations; and

(D) measurably and significantly improve its human rights record.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subtitle A—Organizational Matters

SEC. 5201. RIGHTSIZING ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving rightsizing recommendations pursuant to a review conducted by the Office of Management, Policy, Rightsizing, and Innovation relating to overseas staffing levels at United States overseas posts, the relevant chief of mission, in coordination with the relevant regional bureau, shall submit a response to the Office of Management, Policy, Rightsizing, and Innovation that describes—

(1) any rightsizing recommendations that are accepted by such chief of mission and regional bureau;

(2) a detailed schedule for implementation of any such recommendations;

(3) any recommendations that are rejected; and

(4) a detailed justification providing the basis for the rejection of any such recommendations.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—On the date on which the President's annual budget request is submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of all rightsizing recommendations and responses described in subsection (a) from the preceding 5 years, including—

(1) a list of all such rightsizing recommendations made, including whether each such recommendation was accepted or rejected by the relevant chief of mission and regional bureau;

(2) for each accepted recommendation, a detailed description of the current status of its implementation according to the schedule provided pursuant to subsection (a)(2), including an explanation for any departure from, or changes to, such schedule; and

(3) for any rejected recommendations, the justification provided pursuant to subsection (a)(4).

(c) REPORT ON REGIONAL BUREAU STAFFING.—In conjunction with each report required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit a supplemental report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an enumeration of the domestic staff positions in each regional bureau of the Department;

(2) a detailed explanation of the extent to which the staffing of each regional bureau reflects the overseas requirements of the United States within each such region;

(3) a detailed plan, including an implementation schedule, for how the Department will seek to rectify any significant imbalances in staffing among regional bureaus or between any regional bureau and the overseas requirements of the United States within such region if the Secretary determines that such staffing does not reflect—

(A) the foreign policy priorities of the United States; or

(B) the effective conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States; and

(4) a detailed description of the implementation status of any plan provided pursuant to paragraph (3), including an explanation for any departure from, or changes to, the implementation schedule provided with such plan.

SEC. 5202. INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Under Secretary of Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, shall establish—

(1) foreign economic policy priorities for each regional bureau, including for individual countries, as appropriate; and

(2) policies and guidance for integrating such foreign economic policy priorities throughout the Department.

(b) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Within each regional bureau of the Department, the Secretary shall task an existing Deputy Assistant Secretary with appropriate training and background in economic and commercial affairs with the responsibility for economic matters and interests within the responsibilities of such regional bureau, including the integration of the foreign economic policy priorities established pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) COORDINATION.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary given the responsibility for economic matters and interests pursuant to subsection (b) within each bureau shall—

(1) at the direction of the relevant Assistant Secretary, review and report to the Assistant Secretary of such bureau on all economic matters and interests; and

(2) serve as liaison with the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.

SEC. 5203. REVIEW OF BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS JURISDICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a review of the jurisdictional responsibility of the Bureau of African Affairs and that of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs relating to the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya; and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) recommendations on whether jurisdictional responsibility among the bureaus referred to in paragraph (1) should be adjusted.

(b) REVIEW.—The review conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) identify regional strategic priorities;

(2) assess regional dynamics between the North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, including the degree to which the priorities identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) are distinct between each such region; or

(B) have similar application across such regions;

(3) identify current priorities and effectiveness of United States Government regional engagement in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, including through security assistance, economic assistance, humanitarian assistance, and trade;

(4) assess the degree to which such engagement is—

(A) inefficient, duplicative, or uncoordinated between the North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions; or

(B) otherwise harmed or limited as a result of the current division of jurisdictional responsibilities;

(5) assess the overall coherence and effectiveness of the current division of jurisdictional responsibilities in Africa between the Bureau of African Affairs and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, including with regard to coordination with other United States departments or agencies; and

(6) assess any opportunities and costs of transferring jurisdictional responsibility of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs to the Bureau of African Affairs.

SEC. 5204. SPECIAL ENVOYS, REPRESENTATIVES, ADVISORS, AND COORDINATORS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on special envoys, representatives, advisors, and coordinators of the Department, which shall include—

(1) a tabulation of the current names, ranks, positions, and responsibilities of all special envoy, representative, advisor, and coordinator positions at the Department, with a separate accounting of all such positions at the level of Assistant Secretary (or equivalent) or above; and

(2) for each position identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) the date on which the position was created;

(B) the mechanism by which the position was created, including the authority under which the position was created;

(C) the positions authorized under section 1(d) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(d));

(D) a description of whether, and the extent to which, the responsibilities assigned to the position duplicate the responsibilities of other current officials within the Department, including other special envoys, representatives, and advisors;

(E) which current official within the Department would be assigned the responsibilities of the position in the absence of the position;

(F) to which current official within the Department the position directly reports;

(G) the total number of staff assigned to support the position; and

(H) with the exception of those created by statute, a detailed explanation of the necessity of the position to the effective conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States.

SEC. 5205. CONFLICT PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND RESOLUTION, AND THE INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN.

Section 704 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) The Secretary, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel, responsible for, or deploying to, countries or regions considered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent conflict, including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or foreign service, and contractors, obtain training, as appropriate, in the following areas, each of which

shall include a focus on women and ensuring women's meaningful inclusion and participation:

“(1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

“(2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

“(3) International human rights law and international humanitarian law.”

SEC. 5206. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall regularly consult with the Director of the National Security Agency and any other departments or agencies the Secretary determines to be appropriate regarding the security of United States Government and non-government information technology systems and networks owned, operated, managed, or utilized by the Department, including any such systems or networks facilitating the use of sensitive or classified information.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In performing the consultations required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make all such systems and networks available to the Director of the National Security Agency and any other such departments or agencies to carry out such tests and procedures as are necessary to ensure adequate policies and protections are in place to prevent penetrations or compromises of such systems and networks, including by malicious intrusions by any unauthorized individual or state actor or other entity.

(c) SECURITY BREACH REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Security Agency and any other departments or agencies the Secretary determines to be appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that describes in detail—

(1) all known or suspected penetrations or compromises of the systems or networks described in subsection (a) facilitating the use of classified information; and

(2) all known or suspected significant penetrations or compromises of any other such systems and networks that occurred since the submission of the prior report.

(d) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under subsection (c) shall include—

(1) a description of the relevant information technology system or network penetrated or compromised;

(2) an assessment of the date and time such penetration or compromise occurred;

(3) an assessment of the duration for which such system or network was penetrated or compromised, including whether such penetration or compromise is ongoing;

(4) an assessment of the amount and sensitivity of information accessed and available to have been accessed by such penetration or compromise, including any such information contained on systems and networks owned, operated, managed, or utilized by any other department or agency of the United States Government;

(5) an assessment of whether such system or network was penetrated by a malicious intrusion, including an assessment of—

(A) the known or suspected perpetrators, including state actors; and

(B) the methods used to conduct such penetration or compromise; and

(6) a description of the actions the Department has taken, or plans to take, to prevent future, similar penetrations or compromises of such systems and networks.

SEC. 5207. ANALYSIS OF EMBASSY COST SHARING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller

General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that assesses the cost-effectiveness and performance of the International Cooperative Administrative Support Services system (referred to in this section as the “ICASS system”), including by assessing—

(1) the general performance of the ICASS system in providing cost-effective, timely, efficient, appropriate, and reliable services that meet the needs of all departments and agencies served;

(2) the extent to which additional cost savings and greater performance can be achieved under the current ICASS system and rules;

(3) the standards applied in the selection of the ICASS provider and the extent to which such standards are consistently applied; and

(4) potential reforms to the ICASS system, including—

(A) the selection of more than 1 service provider under certain circumstances;

(B) options for all departments or agencies to opt out of ICASS entirely or to opt out of individual services, including by debundling service packages;

(C) increasing the reliance on locally employed staff or outsourcing to local firms, as appropriate; and

(D) other modifications to the current ICASS system and rules that would incentivize greater effectiveness and cost efficiency.

SEC. 5208. PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION.

Section 433(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 241(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

“(1) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary of State shall convene and chair an interagency working group to prevent international parental child abduction, which shall be composed of presidentially appointed, Senate confirmed, officials from—

“(A) the Department of State;

“(B) the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(C) the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary of State shall convene an advisory committee to the interagency working group established pursuant to paragraph (1), for the duration of the working group's existence, which shall be composed of not less than 3 left-behind parents, serving for 2-year terms, who—

“(A) shall be selected by the Secretary; and

“(B) shall periodically consult with the interagency working group on all activities of the interagency working group, as appropriate.”

SEC. 5209. IMPROVING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) conduct regular research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department, including through the routine use of audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluations, to plan and execute such programs and activities; and

(2) make the findings of the research and evaluations conducted under paragraph (1) available to Congress.

(b) DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint a Director of Research and Evaluation in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of a Director of Research and Evaluation pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not result in an increase in the overall full-time equivalent positions within the Department.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of Research and Evaluation shall—

(A) coordinate and oversee the research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs of the Department—

(i) to improve public diplomacy strategies and tactics; and

(ii) to ensure that programs are increasing the knowledge, understanding, and trust of the United States by relevant target audiences;

(B) report to the Director of Policy and Planning;

(C) routinely organize and oversee audience research, digital analytics and impact evaluations across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department;

(D) support embassy public affairs sections;

(E) share appropriate public diplomacy research and evaluation information within the Department and with other Federal departments and agencies;

(F) regularly design and coordinate standardized research questions, methodologies, and procedures to ensure that public diplomacy activities across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices are designed to meet appropriate foreign policy objectives; and

(G) report quarterly to the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, through the Commission's Subcommittee on Research and Evaluation established pursuant to subsection (e), regarding the research and evaluation of all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(4) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—Not later than 180 days after his or her appointment pursuant to paragraph (1), the Director of Research and Evaluation shall create guidance and training for all public diplomacy officers regarding the reading and interpretation of public diplomacy program evaluation findings to ensure that such findings and lessons learned are implemented in the planning and evaluation of all public diplomacy programs and activities throughout the Department.

(c) PRIORITIZING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of Policy, Planning, and Resources shall ensure that research and evaluation, as coordinated and overseen by the Director of Research and Evaluation, supports strategic planning and resource allocation across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(2) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.—Amounts allocated for the purposes of research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to be disbursed at the direction of the Director of Research and Evaluation among the research and evaluation staff across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should allocate, for the purposes of research and evaluation of public diplomacy activities and programs pursuant to subsection (a)—

(A) 3 to 5 percent of program funds made available under the heading “EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS”; and

(B) 3 to 5 percent of program funds allocated for public diplomacy programs under

the heading “DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS”.

(d) **LIMITED EXEMPTION.**—The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) shall not apply to collections of information directed at foreign individuals conducted by, or on behalf of, the Department for the purpose of audience research and impact evaluations, in accordance with the requirements under this section and in connection with the Department’s activities conducted pursuant to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) or the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.).

(e) **ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**—

(1) **SUBCOMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.**—The Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy shall establish a Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation to monitor and advise on the research and evaluation activities of the Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

(2) **REPORT.**—The Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall submit an annual report to Congress in conjunction with the Commission on Public Diplomacy’s Comprehensive Annual Report on the performance of the Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors in carrying out research and evaluations of their respective public diplomacy programming.

(3) **REAUTHORIZATION.**—Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2020”.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AUDIENCE RESEARCH.**—The term “audience research” means research conducted at the outset of public diplomacy program or campaign planning and design on specific audience segments to understand the attitudes, interests, knowledge and behaviors of such audience segments.

(2) **DIGITAL ANALYTICS.**—The term “digital analytics” means the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, accumulated in digital format, to indicate the outputs and outcomes of a public diplomacy program or campaign.

(3) **IMPACT EVALUATION.**—The term “impact evaluation” means an assessment of the changes in the audience targeted by a public diplomacy program or campaign that can be attributed to such program or campaign.

SEC. 5210. ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall strengthen the institutional capacity of the Bureau of African Affairs to oversee programs and engage in strategic planning and crisis management by—

(1) establishing an office within the Bureau of African Affairs that is separate and distinct from the regional affairs office specifically charged with overseeing strategy development and program implementation related to security assistance;

(2) planning to facilitate the long-term planning process; and

(3) developing a concrete plan to rightsize the Bureau of African Affairs not later than 180 days after the date enactment of this Act.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the actions that have been taken to carry out subsection (a).

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts to carry out this section, and the

Secretary shall use existing resources to carry out the provisions of this section.

Subtitle B—Personnel Matters

SEC. 5211. REVIEW OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER COMPENSATION.

(a) **INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commission an independent assessment of Foreign Service Officer compensation to ensure that such compensation is achieving its purposes and the goals of the Department, including to recruit, retain, and maintain the world’s premier diplomatic corps.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the results of the independent assessment commissioned pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) the views of the Secretary regarding Foreign Service Officer compensation.

(b) **CONTENT.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all compensation received by Foreign Service Officers assigned domestically or overseas, including base salary and any other benefits, allowances, differentials, or other financial incentives;

(2) for each form of compensation described in paragraph (1)—

(A) an explanation of its stated purpose;

(B) a description of all relevant authorities, including statutory authority; and

(C) an assessment of the degree to which its historical and current use matches its stated purpose; and

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of each form of compensation described in paragraph (1) in—

(A) achieving its stated purpose;

(B) achieving the recruiting and retention goals of the Department; and

(C) achieving the assignment placement needs of the Department.

SEC. 5212. REPEAL OF RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 305 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3945) is amended by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 5213. COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR TRAVEL.

Section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) The maximum amount of compensatory time off that may be earned under this section may not exceed 104 hours during any leave year (as defined in section 630.201(b) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations).”

SEC. 5214. CERTIFICATES OF DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE.

Not later than 7 days after submitting the report required under section 304(a)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3944(a)(4)) to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the President shall make the report available to the public, including by posting the on the website of the Department in a conspicuous manner and location.

SEC. 5215. FOREIGN SERVICE ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS.

(a) **APPEAL OF ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTION.**—The Secretary shall establish a right and process for employees to appeal any assignment restriction or preclusion.

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—Upon full implementation of a right and process for employees to appeal an assignment restriction or preclusion, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) certifies that such appeals process has been fully implemented; and

(2) includes a detailed description of such process.

(c) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish the right and process established pursuant to subsection (a) in the Foreign Affairs Manual; and

(2) include a reference to such publication in the report required under subsection (b).

(d) **PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION.**—Section 502(a)(2) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3982(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) In making assignments under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that a member of the Service is not assigned to, or restricted from, a position at a post in a particular geographic area, or domestically in a position working on issues relating to a particular geographic area, exclusively on the basis of the race, ethnicity, or religion of that member.”

SEC. 5216. SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSIONS.

(a) **SUSPENSION.**—Section 610 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

“SEC. 610. SEPARATION FOR CAUSE; SUSPENSION.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) In order to promote the efficiency of the Service, the Secretary may suspend a member of the Service without pay when—

“(A) the member’s security clearance is suspended; or

“(B) there is reasonable cause to believe that the member has committed a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed.

“(2) Any member of the Foreign Service for whom a suspension is proposed under this subsection shall be entitled to—

“(A) written notice stating the specific reasons for the proposed suspension;

“(B) a reasonable time to respond orally and in writing to the proposed suspension;

“(C) representation by an attorney or other representative; and

“(D) a final written decision, including the specific reasons for such decision, as soon as practicable.

“(3) Any member suspended under this subsection may file a grievance in accordance with the procedures applicable to grievances under chapter 11.

“(4) If a grievance is filed under paragraph (3)—

“(A) the review by the Foreign Service Grievance Board shall be limited to a determination of whether the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) have been fulfilled; and

“(B) the Board may not exercise the authority provided under section 1106(8).

“(5) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘reasonable time’ means—

“(i) with respect to a member of the Foreign Service assigned to duty in the United States, 15 days after receiving notice of the proposed suspension; and

“(ii) with respect to a member of the Foreign Service assigned to duty outside the United States, 30 days after receiving notice of the proposed suspension.

“(B) The terms ‘suspend’ and ‘suspension’ mean placing a member of the Foreign Service in a temporary status without duties and pay.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 2 of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 610 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 610. Separation for cause; suspension.”

SEC. 5217. ECONOMIC STATECRAFT EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

The Secretary shall establish curriculum at the Foreign Services Institute to develop

the practical foreign economic policy expertise and skill sets of Foreign Service officers, including by making available distance-learning courses in commercial, economic, and business affairs, including in—

- (1) the global business environment;
- (2) the economics of development;
- (3) development and infrastructure finance;
- (4) current trade and investment agreements negotiations;
- (5) implementing existing multilateral and World Trade Organization agreements, and United States trade and investment agreements;
- (6) best practices for customs and export procedures; and
- (7) market analysis and global supply chain management.

SEC. 5218. REPORT ON DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT, EMPLOYMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quadrennially thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a comprehensive report to Congress that—

(1) describes the efforts, consistent with existing law, including procedures, effects, and results of the Department since the period covered by the prior such report, to promote equal opportunity and inclusion for all American employees in direct hire and personal service contractors status, particularly employees of the Foreign Service, to include equal opportunity for all races, ethnicities, ages, genders, and service-disabled veterans, with a focus on traditionally underrepresented minority groups;

(2) includes a section on—

(A) the diversity of selection boards;

(B) the employment of minority and service-disabled veterans during the most recent 10-year period, including—

- (i) the number hired through direct hires, internships, and fellowship programs;
- (ii) the number promoted to senior positions, including FS-01, GS-15, Senior Executive Service, and Senior Foreign Service; and
- (iii) attrition rates by grade, civil and foreign services, and the senior level ranks listed in clause (ii);

(C) mentorship and retention programs; and

(3) is organized in terms of real numbers and percentages at all levels.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall describe the efforts of the Department—

(1) to propagate fairness, impartiality, and inclusion in the work environment domestically and abroad;

(2) to eradicate harassment, intolerance, and discrimination;

(3) to refrain from engaging in unlawful discrimination in any phase of the employment process, including recruitment, hiring, evaluation, assignments, promotion, retention, and training;

(4) to eliminate illegal retaliation against employees for participating in a protected equal employment opportunity activity;

(5) to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified employees and applicants with disabilities;

(6) to resolve workplace conflicts, confrontations, and complaints in a prompt, impartial, constructive, and timely manner;

(7) to improve demographic data availability and analysis regarding recruitment, hiring, promotion, training, length in service, assignment restrictions, and pass-through programs;

(8) to recruit a diverse staff by—

(A) recruiting women, minorities, veterans, and undergraduate and graduate students;

(B) recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving in-

stitutions, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(C) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(D) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward women and people of color;

(E) providing opportunities through the Foreign Service Internship Program and other hiring initiatives; and

(F) recruiting mid- and senior-level professionals through programs such as—

(i) the International Career Advancement Program;

(ii) the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(iii) the Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program;

(iv) Seminar XXI at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies; and

(v) other similar, highly respected, international leadership programs; and

(9) to provide opportunities through—

(A) the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(B) the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(C) the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

(c) **SCOPE OF INITIAL REPORT.**—The first report submitted to Congress under this section shall include the information described in subsection (b) for the 3 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted.

SEC. 5219. EXPANSION OF THE CHARLES B. RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM, THE THOMAS R. PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, AND THE DONALD M. PAYNE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) **ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary shall—

(1) increase by 10 the number of fellows selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program;

(2) increase by 10 the number of fellows selected for the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(3) increase by 5 the number of fellows selected for the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

(b) **PAYNE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**—Undergraduate and graduate components of the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program are authorized to conduct outreach to attract outstanding students who represent diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds with an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career.

SEC. 5220. RETENTION OF MID- AND SENIOR-LEVEL PROFESSIONALS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary should provide attention and oversight to the employment, retention, and promotion of underrepresented groups to promote a diverse ethnic representation among mid- and senior-level career professionals through programs such as—

(1) the International Career Advancement Program;

(2) Seminar XXI at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies; and

(3) other highly respected international leadership programs.

(b) **REVIEW OF PAST PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary should review past programs designed to increase minority representation in international affairs positions, including—

(1) the USAID Undergraduate Cooperative and Graduate Economics Program;

(2) the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(3) the Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program.

SEC. 5221. REVIEW OF JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND THE BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary of State shall conduct a review of the jurisdictional responsibilities of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a), including recommendations on whether jurisdictional responsibility between the 2 offices should be adjusted.

SEC. 5222. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 30 days before the anticipated submission of each annual report under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of State shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees concerning the countries that will be upgraded to a higher tier or downgraded to a lower tier in such report.”.

SEC. 5223. INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by inserting “REFUGEES” before “The Secretary of State”;

(3) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS” before “The Secretary of State”;

(4) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall develop a curriculum for Foreign Service Officers that includes training on—

“(A) the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom;

“(B) how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests;

“(C) how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests;

“(D) how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service Officers; and

“(E) the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts to combat violent extremism.

“(2) **ROLE OF OTHER OFFICIALS.**—The Secretary of State shall carry out paragraph (1)—

“(A) with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b));

“(B) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

“(C) in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)).

“(3) RESOURCES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement the curriculum required under this subsection.

“(b) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016, the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall begin training on religious freedom, using the curriculum developed under subsection (a), for Foreign Service officers, including—

“(A) entry level officers;

“(B) officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States; and

“(C) incoming deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The training required under paragraph (1) shall be substantively incorporated into—

“(A) the A-100 course attended by Foreign Service Officers;

“(B) the specific country courses required of Foreign Service Officers prior to a posting outside the United States, with training tailored to—

“(i) the particular religious demography of such country;

“(ii) religious freedom conditions in such country;

“(iii) religious engagement strategies; and

“(iv) United States strategies for advancing religious freedom.

“(C) the courses required of incoming deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and all other Federal departments and agencies whose personnel serve as attachés, advisors, detailees, or otherwise in United States embassies globally to provide training on—

“(1) United States religious freedom policies;

“(2) religious traditions;

“(3) religious engagement strategies;

“(4) religious and cultural issues; and

“(5) efforts to combat terrorism and violent religious extremism.”

TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Subtitle A—United States Contributions to International Organizations

SEC. 5301. REPORTS CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS.

(a) REPORT ON ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) all activities at the United Nations and its subagencies that can be construed to exhibit an anti-Semitic bias, including official statements, proposed resolutions, and United Nations investigations;

(2) the use of United Nations resources to promote anti-Semitic or anti-Israel rhetoric or propaganda, including publications, internet websites, and textbooks or other educational materials used to propagate political rhetoric regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

(3) specific actions taken by the United States Government to address any of the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPORT ON ALL UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.—Section 4(c) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A detailed description of all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind contributions, of the United States to the United Nations and to each of its affiliated agencies and related bodies—

“(i) during the preceding fiscal year;

“(ii) estimated for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted; and

“(iii) requested in the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for the following fiscal year.

“(B) CONTENT.—The description required under subparagraph (A) shall, for each fiscal year specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of that subparagraph, include—

“(i) the total amount or value of all contributions described in that subparagraph;

“(ii) the approximate percentage of all such contributions by the United States compared to all contributions to the United Nations and to each of its affiliated agencies and related bodies from any source; and

“(iii) for each such contribution described in subparagraph (A)—

“(I) the amount or value of the contribution;

“(II) whether the contribution was assessed by the United Nations or voluntary;

“(III) the purpose of the contribution;

“(IV) the department or agency of the United States Government responsible for the contribution; and

“(V) whether the United Nations or an affiliated agency or related body received the contribution and, if an affiliated agency or related body received the contribution, which such agency or body.

“(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Not later than 14 days after submitting a report required under this subsection to the designated congressional committees, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall post a text-based, searchable version of the description required by subparagraph (A) on a publicly available Internet website of that Office.”

SEC. 5302. ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 4(b) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(b)) is amended by striking “in which the United States participates as a member” and inserting “, including—

“(1) the amount of such contributions that were assessed by an international organization and the amount of such contributions that were voluntary; and

“(2) the ratio of United States contributions to total contributions received for—

“(A) the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, and other United Nations funds, programs, and organizations;

“(B) peacekeeping;

“(C) inter-American organizations;

“(D) regional organizations; and

“(E) other international organizations.”

SEC. 5303. REPORT ON PEACEKEEPING ARREARS, CREDITS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Section 4(c) of the United Nations Participation Act (22 U.S.C. 287b(c)), as amended by section 5301(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) PEACEKEEPING CREDITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A complete and full accounting of United States peacekeeping assessments and contributions for United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the following:

“(i) A tabulation of annual United Nations peacekeeping assessment rates, the peacekeeping contribution rate authorized by the United States, and the United States public law that authorized the contribution rate for the United Nations peacekeeping budget for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 1995 through the fiscal year following the date of the report.

“(ii) A tabulation of current United States accrued shortfalls and arrears in each respective ongoing or closed United Nations peacekeeping mission.

“(iii) A tabulation of all peacekeeping credits, including—

“(I) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States;

“(II) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be unavailable to the United States;

“(III) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States from each open and closed peacekeeping mission;

“(IV) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be unavailable to the United States from each open and closed peacekeeping mission;

“(V) the total amount of peacekeeping credits applied by the United Nations toward shortfalls from previous years that are apportioned to the United States;

“(VI) the total amount of peacekeeping credits applied by the United Nations toward offsetting future contributions of the United States; and

“(VII) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States that could be applied toward offsetting United States contributions in the following fiscal year.

“(iv) An explanation of any claim of unavailability by the United Nations of any peacekeeping credits described in clause (iii)(IV).

“(v) A description of any efforts by the United States to obtain reimbursement in accordance with the requirements of this Act, including Department of Defense materiel and services, and an explanation of any failure to obtain any such reimbursement.

“(B) PEACEKEEPING CREDITS DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘peacekeeping credits’ means the amounts by which, during a United Nations peacekeeping fiscal year, the contributions of the United States to the United Nations for peacekeeping operations exceed the actual expenditures for peacekeeping operations by the United Nations that are apportioned to the United States.”

SEC. 5304. ASSESSMENT RATE TRANSPARENCY.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after each time the United Nations General Assembly modifies the assessment levels for peacekeeping operations, the Secretary shall submit a report, which may include a classified annex, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the change, by amount and percentage, of the peacekeeping assessment charged to each member state; and

(B) how the economic and strategic interests of each of the permanent members of the Security Council is being served by each peacekeeping mission currently in force.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF PEACEKEEPING ASSESSMENT DATA.—The Secretary shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to urge the United Nations—

(1) to share the raw data used to calculate member state peacekeeping assessment rates; and

(2) to make available the formula for determining peacekeeping assessments.

Subtitle B—Accountability at International Organizations

SEC. 5311. PREVENTING ABUSE IN PEACEKEEPING.

Not later than 15 days before the anticipated date of a vote (or, in the case of exigent circumstances, as far in advance of the vote as is practicable) on a resolution approving a new peacekeeping mission under the auspices of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or any other multilateral organization in which the United States participates, or to reauthorize an existing such mission, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on that mission that includes the following:

(1) A description of the specific measures taken and planned to be taken by the organization related to the mission—

(A) to prevent individuals who are employees or contractor personnel of the organization, or members of the forces serving in the mission from engaging in acts of trafficking in persons, exploitation of victims of trafficking, or sexual exploitation or abuse; and

(B) to hold accountable any such individuals who engage in any such acts while participating in the mission.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of each of the measures described in paragraph (1).

(3) An accounting and assessment of all cases in which the organization has taken action to investigate allegations that individuals described in paragraph (1)(A) have engaged in acts described in that paragraph, including a description of the status of all such cases as of the date of the report.

SEC. 5312. INCLUSION OF PEACEKEEPING ABUSES IN COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

Section 116(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) for each country that contributes personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions, a description of—

“(A) any allegations of such personnel engaging in acts of trafficking in persons, exploitation of victims of trafficking, or sexual exploitation and abuse while participating in such a peacekeeping mission;

“(B) any repatriations of such personnel resulting from an allegation described in subparagraph (A);

“(C) any actions taken by such country with respect to personnel repatriated as a result of allegations described in subparagraph (A), including whether such personnel faced prosecution related to such allegations; and

“(D) the extent to which any actions taken as described in subparagraph (C) have been communicated by such country to the United Nations.”.

SEC. 5313. EVALUATION OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) a comprehensive evaluation of current United Nations peacekeeping missions;

(2) a prioritization of the peacekeeping missions;

(3) plans for phasing out and ending any mission that—

(A) has substantially met its objectives and goals; or

(B) will not be able to meet its objectives and goals; and

(4) a plan for reviewing the status of open-ended mandates for—

(A) the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK);

(B) the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO); and

(C) the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

(b) APPROVAL OF FUTURE PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to ensure that no new United Nations peacekeeping mission is approved without a periodic mandate renewal.

(c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—The United States shall not provide funding for any United Nations peacekeeping mission beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act unless the mission has a periodic mandate renewal.

Subtitle C—Personnel Matters

SEC. 5321. ENCOURAGING EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

Section 181 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (22 U.S.C. 276c-4) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 181. EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS BY CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

“Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report that provides—

“(1) for each international organization that had a geographic distribution formula in effect on January 1, 1991, an assessment of whether that organization—

“(A) is taking good faith steps to increase the staffing of United States citizens, including, as appropriate, as assessment of any additional steps the organization could be taking to increase such staffing; and

“(B) has met the requirements of its geographic distribution formula; and

“(2) an assessment of United States representation among professional and senior-level positions at the United Nations, including—

“(A) an assessment of the proportion of United States citizens employed at the United Nations Secretariat and at all United Nations specialized agencies, funds, and programs relative to the total employment at the United Nations Secretariat and at all such agencies, funds, and programs;

“(B) as assessment of compliance by the United Nations Secretariat and such agencies, funds, and programs with any applicable geographic distribution formula; and

“(C) a description of any steps taken or planned to be taken by the United States to increase the staffing of United States citizens at the United Nations Secretariat and such agencies, funds and programs.”.

SEC. 5322. ENSURING APPROPRIATE UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL SALARIES.

(a) COMPENSATION OF UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations—

(1) to establish appropriate policies, procedures, and assumptions for—

(A) determining comparable positions between officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Na-

tions headquarters in New York, New York, and in the United States Federal civil service;

(B) calculating the margin between the compensation of such officials at the United Nations headquarters and the civil service; and

(C) determining the appropriate margin for adoption by the United Nations to govern compensation for such officials;

(2) to make all policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1) available to the public; and

(3) to limit increases in the compensation of United Nations officials to ensure that such officials remain within the margin range established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/244, or any subsequent margin range adopted by the United Nations to govern compensation for United Nations officials.

(b) REPORT ON SALARY MARGINS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees, at the time of the submission of the budget of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, that

(1) describes the policies, procedures, and assumptions established or used by the United Nations—

(A) to determine comparable positions between officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations headquarters in New York, New York, and in the United States Federal civil service;

(B) to calculate the percentage difference, or margin, between the compensation of such officials at the United Nations headquarters and the civil service; and

(C) to determine the margin range established in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/244, or any subsequent margin range adopted by the United Nations to govern compensation for United Nations officials;

(2) assesses, in accordance with the policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1), the margin between net salaries of officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations in New York and those of comparable positions in the United States Federal civil service;

(3) assesses any changes in the margin described in paragraph (2) from the previous year;

(4) assesses the extent to which any changes in that margin resulted from modifications to the policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1); and

(5) provides the views of the Secretary on any changes in that margin and any such modifications.

TITLE IV—CONSULAR AUTHORITIES

SEC. 5401. VISA INELIGIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTORS.

Section 212(a)(10)(C)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(10)(C)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by adding “or” at the end;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking “; or” at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subclause (III).

SEC. 5402. PRESUMPTION OF IMMIGRANT INTENT FOR H AND L VISA CLASSIFICATIONS.

Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(other than a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (L) or (V) of section 101(a)(15), and other than a nonimmigrant described in any provision of section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) except subclause (b1) of such section)”;

(2) by striking “under section 101(a)(15).” and inserting “under the immigration laws.”; and

(3) by striking “he” each place such term appears and inserting “the alien”.

SEC. 5403. VISA INFORMATION SHARING.

Section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “issuance or refusal” and inserting “issuance, refusal, or revocation”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and on the basis of reciprocity”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “illicit weapons; or” and inserting “illicit weapons, or in determining the removability or eligibility for a visa, admission, or another immigration benefit of persons who would be inadmissible to, or removable from, the United States.”;

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “for the purposes” and inserting “for 1 of the purposes”; and

(ii) by striking “or to deny visas to persons who would be inadmissible to the United States.” and inserting “; or”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) with regard to any or all aliens in the database, specified data elements from each record, if the Secretary of State determines that it is in the national interest to provide such information to a foreign government.”.

TITLE V—EMBASSY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Allocation of Authorized Security Appropriations.

SEC. 5501. WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 5531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

SEC. 5502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for “embassy security, construction and maintenance” shall, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 5531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 5531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined

to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 5531.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated or expended for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government’s ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

Subtitle B—Contracting and Other Matters.

SEC. 5511. LOCAL GUARD CONTRACTS ABROAD UNDER DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136(c)(3) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (22 U.S.C. 4864(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) in evaluating proposals for such contracts, award contracts to technically acceptable firms offering the lowest evaluated price, except that—

“(A) the Secretary may award contracts on the basis of best value (as determined by a cost-technical tradeoff analysis), especially for posts determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 5531 of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016; and

“(B) proposals received from United States persons and qualified United States joint venture persons shall be evaluated by reducing the bid price by 10 percent.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) an explanation of the implementation of section 136(c)(3) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, as amended by subsection (a); and

(2) for each instance in which a contract is awarded pursuant to subparagraph (A) of such section, a written justification and approval that describes the basis for such award and an explanation of the inability of the Secretary to satisfy the needs of the Department by awarding a contract to the technically acceptable firm offering the lowest evaluated price.

SEC. 5512. DISCIPLINARY ACTION RESULTING FROM UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP IN RELATION TO A SECURITY INCIDENT.

Section 304(c) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834 (c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “Whenever” in the first sentence immediately following the subsection heading and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever”; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) CERTAIN SECURITY INCIDENTS.—

“(A) UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP.—Unsatisfactory leadership by a senior official with respect to a security incident involving loss of life, serious injury, or significant destruction of property at or related to a United States Government mission abroad may be grounds for disciplinary action.

“(B) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—If a Board finds reasonable cause to believe that a senior official provided such unsatisfactory leadership, the Board may recommend disciplinary action subject to the procedures in paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 5513. MANAGEMENT AND STAFF ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—Nothing in this division or in any other provision of law may be construed to prevent the Secretary from using all authorities invested in the office of Secretary to take personnel action against any employee or official of the Department that the Secretary determines has breached the duty of that individual or has engaged in misconduct or unsatisfactorily performed the duties of employment of that individual, and such misconduct or unsatisfactory performance has significantly contributed to the serious injury, loss of life, or significant destruction of property, or a serious breach of security, even if such action is the subject of an Accountability Review Board’s examination under section 304(a) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834(a)).

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section 304 of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting “or has engaged in misconduct or unsatisfactorily performed the duties of employment of that individual, and such misconduct or unsatisfactory performance has significantly contributed to the serious injury, loss of life, or significant destruction of property, or the serious breach of security that is the subject of the Board’s examination as described in subsection (a),” after “breached the duty of that individual”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.—Whenever a Board determines that an individual has engaged in any conduct described in subsection (c), the Board shall evaluate the level and effectiveness of management and oversight conducted by employees or officials in the management chain of such individual.”.

SEC. 5514. SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS FOR SOFT TARGETS.

Section 29 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2701) is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting “physical security enhancements and” after “Such assistance may include”.

Subtitle C—Marine Corps Security Guard Program

SEC. 5521. ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF MARINE CORPS SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM.

Section 1269(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 10 U.S.C. 5983 note) is amended by inserting “and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is three years after such date” after “of this Act”.

Subtitle D—Defending High Threat, High Risk Posts

SEC. 5531. DESIGNATION AND REPORTING FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, a classified report, with an unclassified summary, evaluating Department facilities that the Secretary determines to be high threat, high risk in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) **CONTENTS.**—For each facility determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to subsection (a), the report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a narrative assessment describing the security threats and risks facing posts overseas and the overall threat level to United States personnel under chief of mission authority;

(2) the number of diplomatic security personnel, Marine Corps security guards, and other Department personnel dedicated to providing security for United States personnel, information, and facilities;

(3) an assessment of host nation willingness and capability to provide protection in the event of a security threat or incident, pursuant to the obligations of the United States under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961;

(4) an assessment of the quality and experience level of the team of United States senior security personnel assigned to the facility, considering collectively the assignment durations and lengths of government experience;

(5) the number of Foreign Service Officers who have received Foreign Affairs Counter Threat training;

(6) a summary of the requests made during the previous calendar year for additional resources, equipment, or personnel related to the security of the facility and the status of such requests;

(7) an assessment of the ability of United States personnel to respond to and survive a fire attack, including—

(A) whether the facility has adequate fire safety and security equipment for safe havens and safe areas; and

(B) whether the employees working at the facility have been adequately trained on the equipment available;

(8) if it is a new facility, a detailed description of the steps taken to provide security for the new facility, including whether a dedicated support cell was established in the Department to ensure proper and timely resourcing of security; and

(9) a listing of any high threat, high risk facilities where the facilities of the Department and other government agencies are not collocated, including—

(A) a rationale for the lack of collocation; and

(B) a description of what steps, if any, are being taken to mitigate potential security vulnerabilities associated with the lack of collocation.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK FACILITY.**—In determining which facilities of the Department constitute high threat, high risk facilities under this section, the Secretary shall take into account with respect to each facility whether there are—

(1) high to critical levels of political violence or terrorism;

(2) national or local governments with inadequate capacity or political will to provide appropriate protection; and

(3) in locations where there are high to critical levels of political violence or terrorism or where national or local governments lack the capacity or political will to provide appropriate protection—

(A) mission physical security platforms that fall well below the Department's established standards; or

(B) security personnel levels that are insufficient for the circumstances.

(d) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW AND REPORT.**—The Inspector General for the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall annually—

(1) review the determinations of the Secretary with respect to high threat, high risk facilities, including the basis for making such determinations;

(2) review contingency planning for high threat, high risk facilities and evaluate the measures in place to respond to attacks on such facilities;

(3) review the risk mitigation measures in place at high threat, high risk facilities to determine how the Secretary evaluates risk and whether the measures put in place sufficiently address the relevant risks;

(4) review early warning systems in place at high threat, high risk facilities and evaluate the measures being taken to preempt and disrupt threats to such facilities; and

(5) provide to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) an assessment of the determinations of the Secretary with respect to high threat, high risk facilities, including recommendations for additions or changes to the list of such facilities; and

(B) a report on the reviews and evaluations undertaken pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4).

SEC. 5532. DESIGNATION AND REPORTING FOR HIGH-RISK COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT POSTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

(2) **PRIORITY 1 COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT NATION.**—The term “Priority 1 Coun-

terintelligence Threat Nation” means a country designated as such by the October 2012 National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF).

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in conjunction with appropriate officials in the intelligence community and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that assesses the counterintelligence threat to United States diplomatic facilities in Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nations.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the use of locally employed staff and guard forces and a listing of diplomatic facilities in Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nations without controlled access areas; and

(B) recommendations for mitigating any counterintelligence threats and for any necessary facility upgrades, including costs assessment of any recommended mitigation or upgrades.

SEC. 5533. ENHANCED QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

The Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 206 (22 U.S.C. 4824) the following new section:

“SEC. 207. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

“The individual serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for High Threat, High Risk Posts shall have 1 or more of the following qualifications:

“(1) Service during the last 6 years at 1 or more posts designated as high threat, high risk by the Secretary of State at the time of service.

“(2) Previous service as the office director or deputy director of 1 or more of the following Department of State offices or successor entities carrying out substantively equivalent functions:

“(A) The Office of Mobile Security Deployments.

“(B) The Office of Special Programs and Coordination.

“(C) The Office of Overseas Protective Operations.

“(D) The Office of Physical Security Programs.

“(E) The Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis.

“(3) Previous service as the Regional Security Officer at two or more overseas posts.

“(4) Other government or private sector experience substantially equivalent to service in the positions listed in paragraphs (1) through (3).”

SEC. 5534. SECURITY ENVIRONMENT THREAT LIST BRIEFINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and upon each subsequent update of the Security Environment Threat List (SETL), the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security shall provide classified briefings to the appropriate congressional committees on the Security Environment Threat List.

(b) **CONTENT.**—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an overview of the Security Environment Threat List; and

(2) a summary assessment of the security posture of those facilities where the Security Environment Threat List assesses the threat environment to be most acute, including factors that informed such assessment.

SEC. 5535. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BENGHAZI ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes the progress of the Secretary in implementing the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the progress the Secretary has made in implementing each specific recommendation of the Accountability Review Board; and

(2) a description of any impediments to recommended reforms, such as budget constraints, bureaucratic obstacles within the Department or in the broader interagency community, or limitations under current law.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 5536. FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER.

(a) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees all documents and materials related to its consideration and analysis concerning the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center at Fort Picket, Virginia, and any alternative facilities.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees all documents and materials related to the determination to construct a new Foreign Affairs Security Training Center at Fort Picket, Virginia, including any that are related to the development and adoption of all related training requirements, including any documents and materials related to the consideration and analysis of such facility performed by the Office of Management and Budget.

SEC. 5537. LANGUAGE TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 416. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Diplomatic security personnel assigned permanently to, or who are serving in, long-term temporary duty status as designated by the Secretary of State at a high threat, high risk post should receive language training described in subsection (b) in order to prepare such personnel for duty requirements at such post.

“(b) LANGUAGE TRAINING DESCRIBED.—Language training referred to in subsection (a) should prepare personnel described in such subsection—

“(1) to speak the language at issue with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on subjects germane to security; and

“(2) to read within an adequate range of speed and with almost complete comprehension on subjects germane to security.

“(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors shall—

“(1) review the language training conducted pursuant to this section; and

“(2) make the results of such review available to the Secretary of State and the appropriate congressional committees.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-399) is amended by inserting after the item relating the section 415 the following:

“Sec. 416. Language requirements for diplomatic security personnel assigned to high threat, high risk posts.”.

Subtitle E—Accountability Review Boards

SEC. 5541. PROVISION OF COPIES OF ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 days after an Accountability Review Board provides its report to the Secretary of State in accordance with title III of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831 et seq.), the Secretary shall provide copies of the report to the appropriate congressional committees for retention and review by those committees.

SEC. 5542. STAFFING.

Section 302(b)(2) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4832(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such persons shall be drawn from bureaus or other agency subunits that are not impacted by the incident that is the subject of the Board’s review.”.

TITLE VI—MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 5601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Improving Department of State Oversight Act of 2015”.

SEC. 5602. COMPETITIVE HIRING STATUS FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employee of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction who completes at least 12 months of service at any time prior to the date of the termination of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (October 5, 2013), and was not terminated for cause shall acquire competitive status for appointment to any position in the competitive service for which the employee possesses the required qualifications.

SEC. 5603. ASSURANCE OF INDEPENDENCE OF IT SYSTEMS.

The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the Department has made reasonable efforts to ensure the integrity and independence of the Office of the Inspector General Information Technology systems.

SEC. 5604. PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 209(c)(5) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(c)(5)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) REQUIRED REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each bureau, post or other office (in this subparagraph, an ‘entity’) of the Department of State shall, within five business days, report to the Inspector General any allegations of—

“(I) waste, fraud, or abuse in a Department program or operation;

“(II) criminal or serious misconduct on the part of a Department employee at the FS-1, GS-15, GM-15 level or higher;

“(III) criminal misconduct on the part of any Department employee; and

“(IV) serious, noncriminal misconduct on the part of any individual who is authorized to carry a weapon, make arrests, or conduct searches, such as conduct that, if proved, would constitute perjury or material dishonesty, warrant suspension as discipline for a first offense, or result in loss of law enforcement authority.

“(ii) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Inspector General may, pursuant to existing authority, investigate matters covered by clause (i).

“(iii) LIMITATION ON INVESTIGATIONS OUTSIDE OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—No entity in the Department of State with concurrent jurisdiction over matters covered by clause (i), including the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, may initiate an investigation of such matter unless it has first reported the allegations to the Inspector General as required by clause (i), except as provided in clause (v) and (vi).

“(iv) COOPERATION.—If an entity in the Department of State initiates an investigation of a matter covered in clause (i) the entity must, except as provided in clause (v), fully cooperate with the Inspector General, including—

“(I) by providing to the Inspector General all data and records obtained in connection with its investigation upon request of the Inspector General;

“(II) by coordinating, at the request of the Inspector General, such entity’s investigation with the Inspector General; and

“(III) by providing to the Inspector General requested support in aid of the Inspector General’s oversight and investigative responsibilities.

“(v) EXCEPTIONS.—The Inspector General may prescribe general rules under which any requirement of clause (iii) or clause (iv) may be dispensed with.

“(vi) EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—Compliance with clauses (i), (iii), and (iv) of this subparagraph may be dispensed with by an entity of the Department of State if complying with them in an exigent circumstance would pose an imminent threat to human life, health or safety, or result in the irretrievable loss or destruction of critical evidence or witness testimony, in which case a report of the allegation shall be made not later than 48 hours after an entity begins an investigation under the authority of this clause and cooperation required under clause (iv) shall commence not later than 48 hours after the relevant exigent circumstance has ended.

“(vii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be interpreted to affect any duty or authority of the Inspector General under any provision of law, including the Inspector General’s duties or authorities under the Inspector General Act.”.

SEC. 5605. REPORT ON INSPECTOR GENERAL INSPECTION AND AUDITING OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS AND BUREAUS AND OPERATING UNITS DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the requirement under section 209(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(a)(1)) that the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors inspect and audit, at least every 5 years, the administration of activities and operations of each Foreign Service post and each bureau and other operating unit of the Department.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF MULTI-TIER SYSTEM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall assess the advisability and feasibility of implementing a multi-tier system for inspecting Foreign Service posts featuring more (or less) frequent inspections

and audits of posts based on risk, including security risk, as may be determined by the Inspector General.

(c) COMPOSITION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include separate portions prepared by the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, and the Comptroller General of the United States, respectively.

SA 2034. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . RECRUITING SEPARATING SERVICE MEMBERS AS CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Customs and Border Protection Officers at United States ports of entry carry out critical law enforcement duties associated with screening foreign visitors, returning United States citizens, and imported cargo entering the United States;

(2) it is in the national interest for United States ports of entry to be adequately staffed with Customs and Border Protection Officers in a timely fashion, including meeting the congressionally mandated staffing level of 23,775 officers for fiscal year 2015;

(3) an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 members of the Armed Forces separate from military service every year; and

(4) recruiting efforts and expedited hiring procedures should be undertaken to ensure that individuals separating from military service are aware of, and partake in, opportunities to fill vacant Customs and Border Protection Officer positions.

(b) EXPEDITED HIRING OF APPROPRIATE SEPARATING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSFERABLE QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, shall jointly identify Military Occupational Safety Codes, Air Force Specialty Codes, and Naval Enlisted Classifications and Officer Designators and Coast Guard Competencies that are transferable to the requirements, qualifications, and duties assigned to Customs and Border Protection Officers.

(2) HIRING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider hiring qualified candidates with the Military Occupational Safety Codes, Air Force Specialty Codes, and Naval Enlisted Classifications and Officer Designators identified as transferable under paragraph (1) who are eligible for veterans recruitment appointment authorized under section 4214 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR RECRUITING SERVICE MEMBERS SEPARATING FROM MILITARY SERVICE FOR CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a program to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The program established under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include Customs and Border Protection Officer opportunities in relevant job assistance efforts under the Transition Assistance Program;

(B) place U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials or other relevant Department of Homeland Security officials at recruiting events and jobs fairs involving members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service;

(C) provide opportunities for local U.S. Customs and Border Protection field offices to partner with military bases in the region;

(D) conduct outreach efforts to educate members of the Armed Forces with Military Occupational Safety Codes, Air Force Specialty Codes, and Naval Enlisted Classifications and Officer Designators that are transferable to the requirements, qualifications, and duties assigned to Customs and Border Protection Officers;

(E) require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to work cooperatively to identify shared activities and opportunities for reciprocity related to steps in hiring U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers with the goal of minimizing the time required to hire qualified applicants;

(F) require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to work cooperatively to ensure the streamlined interagency transfer of relevant background investigations and security clearances; and

(G) include such other elements as may be necessary to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service are aware of opportunities to fill vacant Customs and Border Protection Officer positions.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and December 31 of each year thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a description and assessment of the program established under subsection (c).

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed description of the program established under subsection (c), including—

(i) programmatic elements;

(ii) goals associated with those elements; and

(iii) a description of how the elements and goals will assist in meeting statutorily mandated staffing levels and agency hiring benchmarks;

(B) a detailed description of the program elements that have been implemented under subsection (c);

(C) a detailed summary of the actions taken under subsection (c) to implement such program elements;

(D) the number of separating service members made aware of Customs and Border Protection Officer vacancies;

(E) the Military Occupational Safety Codes, Air Force Specialty Codes, and Naval Enlisted Classifications and Officer Designators identified as transferable under subsection (b)(1) and a rationale for such identifications;

(F) the number of Customs and Border Protection Officer vacancies filled with separating service members;

(G) the number of Customs and Border Protection Officer vacancies filled with separating service members under Veterans' Recruitment Appointment authorized under the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-339); and

(H) the results of any evaluations or considerations of additional elements included

or not included in the program established under subsection (c).

(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) as superseding, altering, or amending existing Federal veterans' hiring preferences or Federal hiring authorities; or

(2) to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts to carry out this section.

SA 2035. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER PURPOSES.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 9101(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) The terms ‘Security Executive Agent’ and ‘Suitability Executive Agent’ mean the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability Executive Agent, respectively, established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.”

(b) COVERED AGENCIES.—Section 9101(a)(6) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G) The Department of Homeland Security.

“(H) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

“(I) An Executive agency that—

“(i) is authorized to conduct background investigations under a Federal statute; or

“(ii) is delegated authority to conduct background investigations in accordance with procedures established by the Security Executive Agent or the Suitability Executive Agent under subsection (b) or (c)(iv) of section 2.3 of Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.

“(J) A contractor that conducts a background investigation on behalf of an agency described in subparagraphs (A) through (I).”

(c) APPLICABLE PURPOSES OF INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 9101(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) in the matter preceding clause (i), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “the head of”;

(B) by inserting “all” before “criminal history record information”; and

(C) by striking “for the purpose of determining eligibility for any of the following:” and inserting “, in accordance with Federal Investigative Standards jointly promulgated by the Suitability Executive Agent and Security Executive Agent, for the purpose of—

“(A) determining eligibility for—”;

(3) in clause (i), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “Access” and inserting “access”; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon;

(4) in clause (ii), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “Assignment” and inserting “assignment”; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting “or positions.”;

(5) in clause (iii), as redesignated—
 (A) by striking “Acceptance” and inserting “acceptance”; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(6) in clause (iv), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “Appointment” and inserting “appointment”;

(B) by striking “or a critical or sensitive position”; and

(C) by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) conducting a basic suitability or fitness assessment for Federal or contractor employees, using Federal Investigative Standards jointly promulgated by the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability Executive Agent in accordance with—

“(i) Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto; and

“(ii) the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum ‘Assignment of Functions Relating to Coverage of Contractor Employee Fitness in the Federal Investigative Standards’, dated December 6, 2012;

“(C) credentialing under the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (dated August 27, 2004); and

“(D) Federal Aviation Administration checks required under—

“(i) the Federal Aviation Administration Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988 (subtitle E of title VII of Public Law 100-690; 102 Stat. 4424) and the amendments made by that Act; or

“(ii) section 44710 of title 49.”.

(d) BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC SEARCHES.—Section 9101(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) A State central criminal history record depository shall allow a covered agency to conduct both biometric and biographic searches of criminal history record information.

“(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit the Federal Bureau of Investigation from requiring a request for criminal history record information to be accompanied by the fingerprints of the individual who is the subject of the request.”.

(e) USE OF MOST COST-EFFECTIVE SYSTEM.—Section 9101(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) If a criminal justice agency is able to provide the same information through more than 1 system described in paragraph (1), a covered agency may request information under subsection (b) from the criminal justice agency, and require the criminal justice agency to provide the information, using the system that is most cost-effective for the Federal Government.”.

(f) SEALED OR EXPUNGED RECORDS; JUVENILE RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9101(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting before the period the following: “, and includes any analogous juvenile records”; and

(B) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: “The term includes those records of a State or locality sealed pursuant to law if such records are accessible by State and local criminal justice agencies for the purpose of conducting background checks.”.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not uniformly reject applicants for employment with the Federal Government or Federal contractors based on—

(A) sealed or expunged criminal records; or

(B) juvenile records.

(g) INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ABROAD.—Section 9101 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) Upon request by a covered agency and in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Overseas Citizens Services shall make available criminal history record information collected by the Deputy Assistant Secretary with respect to an individual who is under investigation by the covered agency regarding any interaction of the individual with a law enforcement agency or intelligence agency of a foreign country.”.

(h) CLARIFICATION OF SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS CONDUCTING BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 9101 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) If a contractor described in subsection (a)(6)(J) uses an automated information delivery system to request criminal history record information, the contractor shall comply with any necessary security requirements for access to that system.”.

(i) CLARIFICATION REGARDING ADVERSE ACTIONS.—Section 7512 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting “, or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) a suitability action taken by the Office under regulations prescribed by the Office, subject to the rules prescribed by the President under this title for the administration of the competitive service.”.

(j) ANNUAL REPORT BY SUITABILITY AND SECURITY CLEARANCE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL.—Section 9101 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) The Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto, shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, an annual report that—

“(1) describes efforts of the Council to integrate Federal, State, and local systems for sharing criminal history record information;

“(2) analyzes the extent and effectiveness of Federal education programs regarding criminal history record information;

“(3) provides an update on the implementation of best practices for sharing criminal history record information, including ongoing limitations experienced by investigators working for or on behalf of a covered agency with respect to access to State and local criminal history record information; and

“(4) provides a description of limitations on the sharing of information relevant to a background investigation, other than criminal history record information, between—

“(A) investigators working for or on behalf of a covered agency; and

“(B) State and local law enforcement agencies.”.

(k) GAO REPORT ON ENHANCING INTEROPERABILITY AND REDUCING REDUNDANCY IN FEDERAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ACCESS CONTROL, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND CREDENTIALING STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives,

and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the background check, access control, and credentialing requirements of Federal programs for the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall include in the report required under paragraph (1)—

(A) a summary of the major characteristics of each such Federal program, including the types of infrastructure and resources covered;

(B) a comparison of the requirements, whether mandatory or voluntary in nature, for regulated entities under each such program to—

(i) conduct background checks on employees, contractors, and other individuals;

(ii) adjudicate the results of a background check, including the utilization of a standardized set of disqualifying offenses or the consideration of minor, non-violent, or juvenile offenses; and

(iii) establish access control systems to deter unauthorized access, or provide a security credential for any level of access to a covered facility or resource;

(C) a review of any efforts that the Screening Coordination Office of the Department of Homeland Security has undertaken or plans to undertake to harmonize or standardize background check, access control, or credentialing requirements for critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs overseen by the Department; and

(D) recommendations, developed in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, regarding—

(i) enhancing the interoperability of security credentials across critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs;

(ii) eliminating the need for redundant background checks or credentials across existing critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs;

(iii) harmonizing, where appropriate, the standards for identifying potentially disqualifying criminal offenses and the weight assigned to minor, nonviolent, or juvenile offenses in adjudicating the results of a completed background check; and

(iv) the development of common, risk-based standards with respect to the background check, access control, and security credentialing requirements for critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs.

SA 2036. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT OF PERSONNEL SECURITY, INSIDER THREAT DETECTION AND PREVENTION, AND PHYSICAL SECURITY.

(a) PERSONNEL SECURITY AND INSIDER THREAT PROTECTION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) PLANS AND SCHEDULES.—Consistent with the Memorandum of the Secretary of Defense

dated March 18, 2014, regarding the recommendations of the reviews of the Washington Navy Yard shooting, the Secretary of Defense shall develop plans and schedules—

(A) to implement a continuous evaluation capability for the national security population for which clearance adjudications are conducted by the Department of Defense Central Adjudication Facility, in coordination with the Suitability Executive Agent, the Security Executive Agent, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(B) to produce a Department-wide insider threat strategy and implementation plan, which includes—

(i) resourcing for the Defense Insider Threat Management and Analysis Center (DITMAC) and component insider threat programs, and

(ii) alignment of insider threat protection programs with continuous evaluation capabilities and processes for personnel security;

(C) to centralize the authority, accountability, and programmatic integration responsibilities, including fiscal control, for personnel security and insider threat protection under the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence;

(D) to align the Department's consolidated Central Adjudication Facility under the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence;

(E) to develop a defense security enterprise reform investment strategy to ensure a consistent, long-term focus on funding to strengthen all of the Department's security and insider threat programs, policies, functions, and information technology capabilities, including detecting threat behaviors conveyed in the cyber domain, in a manner that keeps pace with evolving threats and risks;

(F) to resource and expedite deployment of the Identity Management Enterprise Services Architecture (IMESA); and

(G) to implement the recommendations contained in the study conducted by the Director of Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation required by section 907 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 1564 note), including, specifically, the recommendations to centrally manage and regulate Department of Defense requests for personnel security background investigations.

(2) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the plans and schedules required under paragraph (1).

(b) **PHYSICAL AND LOGICAL ACCESS.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of Defense shall define physical and logical access standards, capabilities, and processes applicable to all personnel with access to Department of Defense installations and information technology systems, including—

(A) periodic or regularized background or records checks appropriate to the type of physical or logical access involved, the security level, the category of individuals authorized, and the level of access to be granted;

(B) standards and methods for verifying the identity of individuals seeking access; and

(C) electronic attribute-based access controls that are appropriate for the type of access and facility or information technology system involved;

(2) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of General Services, and in consultation with representatives from

stakeholder organizations, shall design a capability to share and apply electronic identity information across the Government to enable real-time, risk-managed physical and logical access decisions; and

(3) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in conjunction with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and in consultation with representatives from stakeholder organizations, shall establish investigative and adjudicative standards for the periodic or regularized reevaluation of the eligibility of an individual to retain credentials issued pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (dated August 27, 2004), as appropriate, but not less frequently than the authorization period of the issued credentials.

(c) **SECURITY ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) formalize the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Line of Business;

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committee that describes plans—

(A) for oversight by the Office of Management and Budget of activities of the executive branch of the Government for personnel security, suitability, and credentialing;

(B) to designate enterprise shared services to optimize investments;

(C) to define and implement data standards to support common electronic access to critical Government records; and

(D) to reduce the burden placed on Government data providers by centralizing requests for records access and ensuring proper sharing of the data with appropriate investigative and adjudicative elements.

(d) **RECIPROCITY MANAGEMENT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council shall ensure that—

(1) a centralized system is available to serve as the reciprocity management system for the Federal Government; and

(2) the centralized system described in paragraph (1) is aligned with, and incorporates results from, continuous evaluation and other enterprise reform initiatives.

(e) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council, in coordination with the Security Executive Agent, the Suitability Executive Agent, and the Secretary of Defense, shall jointly develop a plan to—

(1) implement the Security Executive Agent Directive on common, standardized employee and contractor security reporting requirements;

(2) establish and implement uniform reporting requirements for employees and Federal contractors, according to risk, relative to the safety of the workforce and protection of the most sensitive information of the Government; and

(3) ensure that reported information is shared appropriately.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(2) the term “Performance Accountability Council” means the Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council established under Executive Order

13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto; and

(3) the terms “Security Executive Agent” and “Suitability Executive Agent” mean the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability Executive Agent, respectively, established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.

SA 2037. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 884. PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL INNOVATION.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a program to increase access to commercial innovation to meet the mission critical technology needs of the Department of Defense.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The program authorized under this section may include the following elements:

(1) Funding qualified non-profit entities that invest in privately-held companies that are developing technologies that are potentially mission critical to the Department of Defense and that have secured investments from “venture capital funds” (as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to section 203(l) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3(l)) subject to the following conditions:

(A) The Secretary of Defense shall appoint an individual to manage all such investments who possesses demonstrated knowledge and experience in—

(i) understanding developing technologies; and

(ii) managing investments in “venture capital funds” (as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to section 203(l) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3(l))).

(B) For each investment in a qualified non-profit entity, the Secretary of Defense shall secure the ability to select at least one member of the qualified non-profit entity's board of directors, board of trustees, or equivalent governing body to actively monitor the Department of Defense's investment in the qualified non-profit entity.

(C) The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report describing each of the Department of Defense's investments in each qualified non-profit entity, including, at a minimum—

(i) a description and evaluation of the Department of Defense mission each such investment is intended to help accomplish; and

(ii) a financial evaluation that estimates the current and projected value the Department of Defense is securing from each of its investments.

(2) Conducting cost-effective outreach efforts and establishing points of entry for non-traditional defense contractors whose products and technologies could be acquired by the Department of Defense.

(3) Training Federal acquisition personnel in innovative acquisition techniques to access non-traditional defense contractors.

(4) Use of other transactions authority under section 2371 of title 10, United States

Code, and authority to award prizes for advanced technology achievements under section 2374a of such title.

(C) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to use intelligence community contracts and other agreements to meet the needs of the program established under this section.

(d) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the unobligated amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2015 for the Office of the Secretary of Defense for science and technology, \$10,000,000 may be used for technology innovation, as described in the reprogramming action prior approval request submitted by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to Congress on May 15, 2015.

(2) **DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE FUND.**—The Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund may be used for the training of Department of Defense employees under this section.

(e) **SUNSET.**—The authority to carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2038. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1261 and insert the following:

SEC. 1261. MARITIME SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM.

(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State is authorized, using funds transferred pursuant to subsection (b), to provide assistance for the purpose of increasing maritime security and domain awareness for countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

(2) **DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance provided by the Secretary under this section shall be known as the “Maritime Security Capacity Building Program” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

(3) **CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITATIONS.**—The Secretary may provide assistance under this section without regard to any other provision of law, other than section 620J of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d).

(b) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall transfer, from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense by this Act, \$50,000,000 to the Secretary of State for the Program. Any amount so transferred shall be deposited in the “Foreign Military Finance” account for purposes of the Program.

(c) **ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.**—In selecting countries in the Asia-Pacific region to which assistance is to be provided under the Program, the Secretary of State shall prioritize the provision of assistance to countries that will contribute to the achievement of following objectives:

(1) Retaining unhindered access to and use of international waterways in the Asia-Pacific region that are critical to ensuring the security and free flow of commerce and achieving United States national security objectives.

(2) Improving maritime domain awareness in the Asia-Pacific region.

(3) Countering piracy in the Asia-Pacific region.

(4) Disrupting illicit maritime trafficking activities and other forms of maritime trafficking activity in the Asia-Pacific that directly benefit organizations that have been determined to be a security threat to the United States.

(5) Enhancing the maritime capabilities of a country or regional organization to respond to emerging threats to maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region.

(d) **PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE.**—In carrying out the purpose of the Program, the Secretary of State—

(1) shall place priority on assistance to enhance the maritime security capabilities of the military or security forces of countries in the Asia-Pacific region that have maritime missions and the government agencies responsible for such forces; and

(2) may provide assistance to a country in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance the capabilities of that country, or of a regional organization that includes that country, to conduct one or more of the following:

(A) Maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

(B) Littoral and port security.

(C) Coast guard operations.

(D) Command and control.

(E) Management and oversight of maritime activities.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress each year a report on the status of the provision of equipment, training, supplies or other services provided pursuant to the Program during the preceding year.

(f) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee of Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee of Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1261A. REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF FREEDOM OF OPERATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND AIRSPACE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC MARITIME DOMAINS.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, with the concurrence with the Secretary of State, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report (in classified form) setting forth a plan, for each of the six-month, one-year, and three-year periods beginning on the date of such report, for Freedom of Navigation Assertions, Shows of Force, bilateral and multilateral military exercises, Port Calls, Training, and assistance intended to enhance the maritime capabilities, respond to emerging threats, and maintain freedom of operations in international waters and airspace in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains.

(b) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee of Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee of Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 2039. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr.

FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 884. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ROLE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER IN RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in applying the implementation guidance for section 11319 of title 40, United States Code (M-15-14, dated June 10, 2015), the Department of Energy and the Office of Management and Budget should work collaboratively to—

(1) ensure the unique issues associated with the Department of Energy’s High Performance Computing (HPC) program are given appropriate consideration;

(2) avoid unnecessarily duplicating the Department of Energy’s existing project management processes for the HPC program; and

(3) avoid creating any unnecessary layers of approval that may impede the Department of Energy’s deployment of mission-critical HPC systems.

SA 2040. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MORAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 355. STARBASE PROGRAM.

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 301 and available for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide, as specified in the funding table in section 4301—

(1) the amount available for the STARBASE program is hereby increased by \$25,000,000; and

(2) the amount available by reason of increased bulk fuel cost savings is hereby decreased by \$25,000,000.

SA 2041. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1005. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUDIT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROCESSES.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall obtain from an entity independent of the Department of Defense selected by the Secretary for purposes of this section an assessment of the audit and financial management processes of the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A comparison of the audit and financial management processes of the Department with the audit and financial management processes of other appropriate Federal agencies, and appropriate private sector entities, including the qualifications of officials responsible for audit oversight and compliance, for purposes of identifying best practices to be adopted by the Department for its audit and financial management processes.

(B) An analysis of the progress and investments made by the Department under its Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) Plan, and a comparison of such progress and investment with the progress and investments made by other Federal agencies under their Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plans, for purposes of determining the extent to which Department progress on financial management and audit readiness is consistent with results achieved by other appropriate Federal agencies and appropriate private sector entities.

(C) An identification of recommendations on policies and management and other activities that could be undertaken by the Department to enhance its audit and financial management processes in order to obtain and maintain clean audit opinions of its financial statement as effectively and efficiently as possible.

(3) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the entity conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1) has access to all the information, data, and resources necessary to conduct the assessment in a timely manner.

(4) REPORT.—The Secretary shall require the entity conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1) to submit to the Secretary and the congressional defense committees a report on the assessment by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving the report described in subsection (a)(4), the Secretary shall transmit the report to Congress, together with the following:

(1) An analysis by the Secretary of the findings and recommendations of the report.

(2) A description of the response of the Department to such finding and recommendations.

(3) Such other matters with respect to the audit and financial management processes of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 2042. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Depart-

ment of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.

Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) Whenever the Inspector General, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities established under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), issues a report or audit (or any portion of any report or audit) in final form, the Inspector General shall—

“(A) submit the report or audit (or portion of report or audit), as the case may be, to—

“(i) the Secretary;

“(ii) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(iii) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(iv) if the report or audit (or portion of report or audit) was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity, using reasonable and appropriate efforts; and

“(B) not later than 3 days after the report or audit (or portion of report or audit), as the case may be, is submitted in final form to the Secretary, post the report or audit (or portion of report or audit) on the Internet website of the Inspector General.

“(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law.”.

SA 2043. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 344. REIMBURSEMENT OF STATES FOR CERTAIN FIRE SUPPRESSION SERVICES AS A RESULT OF FIRE CAUSED BY MILITARY TRAINING OR OTHER ACTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, upon application by a State, reimburse the State for the reasonable costs of the State for fire suppression services coordinated by the State as a result of a wildland fire caused by military training or other actions of units or members of the Armed Forces in Federal status or employees of the Department of Defense on a military training installation owned by the State. A State may apply for reimbursement under this section only if a personal damage or loss claim caused by the fire concerned was awarded under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

(2) SERVICES COVERED.—Services reimbursable under this subsection shall be limited to services proximately related to the fire for which reimbursement is sought under this subsection.

(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall apply to Department-owned military training installations. Nothing in this section shall affect existing memoranda of understanding between Department-owned military training installations and local governments. Reimbursement may not be made under this section for any services for which a claim may be made under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

(b) APPLICATION.—Each application of a State for reimbursement for costs under subsection (a) shall set forth an itemized request of the services covered by the application, including the costs of such services.

(c) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (a) shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance.

SA 2044. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1049. USE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR SUPPORT OF CIVILIAN FIRE-FIGHTING ACTIVITIES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Modular Airborne Firefighting System Flexibility Act”.

(b) OPERATIONAL USE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 32, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 116. Operational use: support for civilian firefighting activities

“The Secretary of Defense may authorize members and units of the National Guard performing duty under section 328(b), 502(f), or 709(a) of this title, or on active duty under title 10, to support firefighting operations, missions, and activities, including aerial firefighting employment of the Mobile Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS), undertaken in support of a request from the National Interagency Fire Center or another Federal agency.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“116. Operational use: support for civilian firefighting activities.”.

SA 2045. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add following:

SEC. 1085. INCREASE IN SPECIAL PENSION FOR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1562(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$3,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DELAY OF ANNUAL COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall not make an increase pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1562 of such title effective December 1, 2015, if the amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect before such date.

SA 2046. Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1927 submitted by Mr. ISAKSON and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 3 through 6.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 15, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 15, 2015, at 5 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Lifting Sanctions on Iran: Practical Implications.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jessica Cleary, a Navy fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor through the end of the calendar year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL VEHICLE REPAIR COST SAVINGS ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 101, S. 565.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 565) to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 565) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 565

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that, in March 2013, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that confirmed that—

(1) there are approximately 588,000 vehicles in the civilian Federal fleet;

(2) Federal agencies spent approximately \$975,000,000 on repair and maintenance of the Federal fleet in 2011;

(3) remanufactured vehicle components, such as engines, starters, alternators, steering racks, and clutches, tend to be less expensive than comparable new replacement parts; and

(4) the United States Postal Service and the Department of the Interior both informed the Government Accountability Office that the respective agencies rely on the use of remanufactured vehicle components to reduce costs.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Federal agency” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of title 40, United States Code; and

(2) the term “remanufactured vehicle component” means a vehicle component (including an engine, transmission, alternator, starter, turbocharger, steering, or suspension component) that has been returned to same-as-new, or better, condition and performance by a standardized industrial process that incorporates technical specifications (including engineering, quality, and testing standards) to yield fully warranted products.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO USE REMANUFACTURED VEHICLE COMPONENTS.

The head of each Federal agency—

(1) shall encourage the use of remanufactured vehicle components to maintain Federal vehicles, if using such components reduces the cost of maintaining the Federal vehicles while maintaining quality; and

(2) shall not encourage the use of remanufactured vehicle components to maintain Federal vehicles, if using such components—

(A) does not reduce the cost of maintaining Federal vehicles;

(B) lowers the quality of vehicle performance, as determined by the employee of the Federal agency responsible for the repair decision; or

(C) delays the return to service of a vehicle.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 201, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 201) designating June 19, 2015, as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 201) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 202, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 202) designating June 15, 2015, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 202) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 1735, with the time until 11:30 a.m. equally divided in the usual form;

further, that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to H.R. 1735 and the McCain substitute amendment No. 1463 be at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:06 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 15, 2015:

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT

MATTHEW T. MCGUIRE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GENTRY O. SMITH, OF NORTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE.